

THE
BRITISH EMIGRANTS'
“HAND BOOK,”

And Guide to the

NEW STATES OF AMERICA,

PARTICULARLY

ILLINOIS, IOWA, AND WISCONSIN;

Comprising a general description of the

AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES,—RELATIVE
ADVANTAGES THAT DIFFERENT PORTIONS PRESENT
FOR SETTLEMENT,—SKETCHES OF TOWNS,
NEIGHBOURHOODS, ETC., WITH PRACTICAL

ADVICE TO THE EMIGRANT,

Concerning the different Routes, Time of Sailing, &c.

BY J. B. NEWHALL,
(Of the United States of America,)

AUTHOR OF SKETCHES OF IOWA, ETC.

“The possible destiny of the United States of America, as a nation of a hundred millions of free men, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, living under the laws of Alfred, and speaking the language of Shakespeare and Milton, is an august conception. Why should we not wish to see it realized.”—*Coleridge.*

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

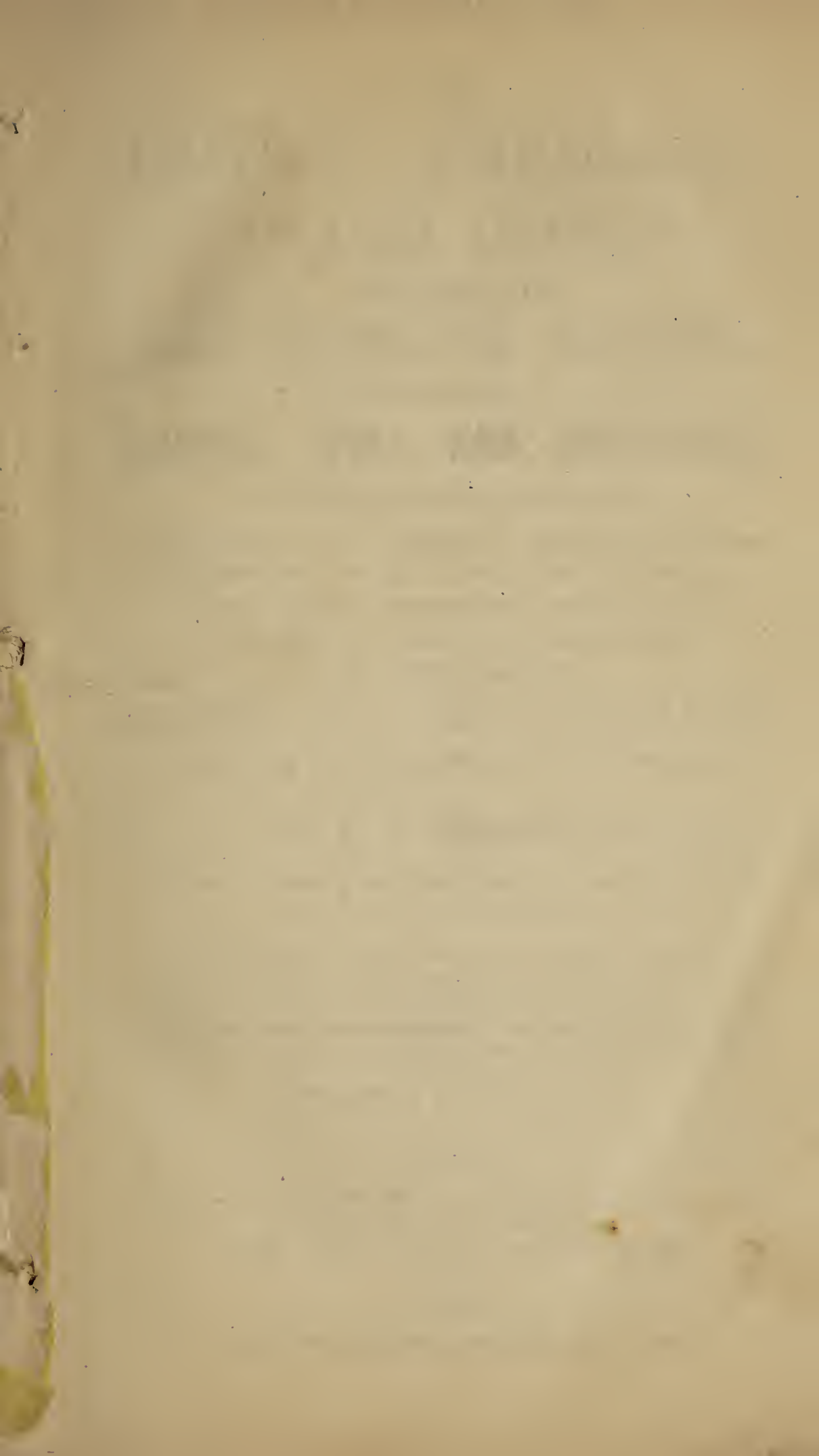
LONDON :

Published for the Author : by Messrs. Wiley and Putnam, 6,
Waterloo Place, Regent Street ; Mr. B. Smith, No. 73,
South Castle Street, Liverpool, & to be had of all Booksellers.

Printed by T. STUTTER, 3 & 4, Church Row, Bethnal Green.

1844.

Price One Shilling and Sixpence.





1/2 col. sh. [Howland]

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By J. B. NEWHALL, 4489

(Author of Sketches of the United States of America, Iowa, &c.)

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In order that the British Public may know what position the writer has occupied as a delineator of the country in question, he begs to subjoin a few Testimonials and Extracts in reference to a former work; and likewise a few Extracts from the British Press during his sojourn in England.

Dear Sir,

I am glad to learn that you are about to publish your contemplated "Hand Book" on the Western States, before your return to America. From your early acquaintance with, and general knowledge of the country, the result of long and continued residence; and from the additional circumstances of your having devoted much valuable time in delineating its vast resources, both, by your pen and your very instructive Lectures; I feel confident that your work will prove a valuable requisition to the Emigrating part of the public, and will likewise commend itself to all those, who desire a more extended acquaintance with one of the most interesting portions of the United States.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours, truly,

GEO. CATLIN,

Egyptian Hall, London,
July 27th, 1844.

Extract of a letter from the late Governor of Iowa Territory, referring to 'Sketches of Iowa.'

Executive Department, Iowa Territory,—Burlington, Aug. 5th, 1841.

MAJ. J. B. NEWHALL; Dear Sir The perusal of your manuscript, has afforded me much gratification.

The design you have adopted in the arrangement of your subjects, cannot fail to interest and instruct all who may feel desirous of obtaining a more familiar acquaintance, not only of the productions and vast mineral resources of our territory, but likewise of the intelligent character of the population. I shall take pleasure in giving my hearty approbation to the laudable efforts of my fellow citizens in all that will redound to the character and prosperity of our interesting young territory. And that testimony I most cheerfully bestow upon your efforts in the present instance—not merely as a valuable acquisition to the public, but as evincing much industry and patient research.

With sincere respect,

I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT LUCAS,

The English Press in reference to Lectures. — “The subjects embraced in Mr. Newhall's Lectures are of a highly interesting character, respecting the vast resources and capabilities of ‘Western America.’ He comes before us with Letters and Testimonials of the highest character from official personages in the United States to gentlemen of distinction in this country, and being entirely disconnected with any Land Company, or speculative enterprise, the information he imparts must prove highly interesting to those who contemplate Emigration.” *Midland Counties Herald, Birmingham* 1843.

“On Thursday Evening, J. B. Newhall, Esq., of the Territory of Iowa, U.S. delivered a highly interesting Lecture, at the Music Hall, Bold Street, on the resources of the Western States of America and the mutual advantages of a free intercourse between England and the United States. The Lecturer has not been long in England; but from his extensive knowledge of the capabilities of his country, has already Lectured with great success in various parts of the country. The Lecturer was listened to by a numerous audience, with the most marked attention. Mr. N. expressed himself ready to answer any questions upon the subjects upon which he had treated. At the conclusion, a vote of thanks was passed by acclamation.”— *Liverpool Albion, Nov.* 1843.

RESOLUTION OF THE

“*British Emigrants' Mutual Aid Society,*” *London.*

Resolved—

That in listening to the interesting Lectures of Mr. Newhall on the New States of America, at the Political and Scientific Institution, the Members of this Association have derived great satisfaction and instruction, and while we tender him our cordial thanks, for the able and happy manner in which he has delineated the features and capabilities of that rising country, we also rejoice, that one has come among us ready and willing to give practical information, (information that may be sought for in vain from books) and that could only be derived from years of travel and indefatigable research.”

I. WILLIAMS, Secretary,

London Branch,

B. T. E. Society.

London, July, 1844.

V.

TO THE READER.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

UPON

EMIGRATION, &c.

WHEN thousands who are willing to earn their "Daily Bread" are famishing with hunger, and hundreds of thousands of their innocent offspring are partaking of their wretchedness and woe; "when each sad day brings forth a dreadful morrow," thus blighting the few remaining energies of sinking nature; is not that man recreant to duty who knowing an Asylum for the oppressed withholds his knowledge? Such I believe to be my position, and animated by a sincere desire to promote the happiness of my fellow men, I have entered upon the prosecution of this little Work. Nevertheless my motives have often been questioned, as though it were impossible, in the Nineteenth Century, for man to be actuated by a Spirit of Philanthropy, of humanity and love. "Oh, he's a Speculator." "Agent of some Land Company," &c, has been the frequent exclamation. When will men cease to be mercenary? and learn to believe there is a loftier purpose to live

for, than bowing to the shrine of Mammon. I am well aware of the feeling existing in many minds against Emigration—and likewise of the prejudices existing against my country; but the more I have reflected upon the subject, and the more I see of the condition of thousands in this country, contrasted with the easy circumstance of the same class in America, the more is my opinion strengthened in regard to the utility of Emigration. The late census of Britain, shows the births to exceed the deaths by about 1000 per diem, and great as this augmentation is, the rate of increase must, by a natural inflexible law, unless checked by the worst physical evils become continually greater; under such circumstances emigration must and will continue. And why should it not? If life be upon the whole a blessing, and if accordingly it be desirable that it be enjoyed by as many as possible, no argument is needed to show that the spreading of mankind over such countries, as the God of nature has designed for their happiness, is an object justified equally by reason and the true principles of benevolence.

That the great “Valley of the Mississippi,” with its vast amount of yet unoccupied territory, and its boundless resources is to continue the attractive spot, for the crowded population of the Old World, may be considered as a settled fact; it is in my opinion as fixed as any law of Providence. And there can be no question to any unprejudiced mind, that if properly conducted, the superfluous industry and enterprize of the Old World may be brought into connexion with the yet undeveloped resources of the New, with benefit incon-

ceivable both to the parent country and the land in question. Perhaps no portion of Western America at the present time excites more general interest, or in detail is less known to the people of England, than the New States and Territories of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin; (especially the two latter) possessed of a Soil unrivalled in the variety and excellence of their productions, and rapidly settling, by a people, who are bound to the Anglo-Saxon race by the indissoluble ties of kindred, religion, and above all of *Language*. These fertile regions present every advantage that can render a country prosperous, or an industrious people happy.

Information of an authentic character and easily accessible, is what is most needed at the present time; it is what the people are seeking for. "Can I better my condition by Emigrating"? Is the anxious inquiry of thousands in almost every community. At a time when the British public is almost inundated with such copious showers of Journals, Travels, "Domestic Manners," "Notes for general circulation," &c. respecting America, it may not be amiss to state for the benefit of the reader, that the writers information is derived from sources widely different from most of his contemporaries. It is an easy matter for the gifted Tourist to indite pages, while he calmly reposes in the saloons of our Mississippi steamers, but to know the people, their social condition and the sources from which they derive sustenance—riches and happiness is quite another affair. I am not insensible of the erroneous conclusions so frequently drawn by superficial

writers who run over to America and confine themselves to a drive or two about our Atlantic cities, or to the distorted pictures so often promulgated by "Returned Emigrant," who probably had not sufficient nerve to cross the Allegany mountains; who, in fact, know nothing of the characteristics of the western Settlers, or the country they inhabit; What do either class know of that vast and boundless country, stretching away westward from the Wabash to the Valley of the Missouri? And yet, they generally return and begin to scribble about their travels.

Perhaps so much presumption in a little unpretending pamphlet, will draw upon the writer a sneer. Let it come then—but let those, so disposed remember, that I write not from books, or with the pen of romance. Ten years ago I beheld the western shore of the Mississippi, a primeval wildness; the boundless praries were blooming in solitude: I participated in rearing the first land marks of a young and rising state—new cities have sprung up before me—I have witnessed the great work of civilization in all its various stages, from the lone cabin of the frontier settler, to a happy and intelligent population of 170,000 souls! Such is a meagre picture of the rapid advancement of Wisconsin and Iowa, within ten years; such are the people with whom I am identified—There is MY HOME! If these be deemed qualifications to delineate with accuracy—Then am I so qualified.

In a little work of such prescribed limits and low price, the reader will not anticipate a detailed description of each county, the paramount object of the writer is to

endeavour to give a concise description of the various commercial and agricultural facilities; likewise to point out those portions of the New States of America, that present the most favourable advantages to the British Emigrant, not only the agriculturalist, but likewise the industrious artizan, mercantile man, capitalist, trader, and day labourer, of whatever occupation; especial reference will be had to the various routes, mode of purchasing land, &c., in short, the aim of the writer is to point out the way for the intending Emigrant, to reach his new abode, with the greatest facility and least expense.

From the long and intimate acquaintance of the writer with the country in question, and from the additional circumstance of having spent the past year in lecturing upon the same subject, in the principal cities and towns of this kingdom, he trusts, that his information may be relied on as practical, at least; and that his extensive intercourse with the people of England, has enabled him to appreciate the kind of information that they require.

Although professedly a "Hand Book" for the guidance of the Emigrant, it has been the aim of the writer to make it acceptable to the Tourist, (as far as circumstances would admit,) by combining the agreeable, with the useful, thus rendering the varied scenes, and incidents of his journey subjects of agreeable contemplation, rather than tedious monotony.

By reference to the table of contents, the reader will observe the various subjects treated of, they may appear to some too numerous and too brief: the writer

deems it better to embrace a wide range of details connected with the subject of emigration, (even if it be to say but little upon each) than to occupy the entire pamphlet with three or four subjects of a general character; it is in fact, the thousand little details which are so essential to the Emigrant, but which are too frequently overlooked in the "Guide Books.

Quite a movement is going on at the present time in Great Britain, in reference to associative Emigration; this movement, although comparatively silent in its operations, is rapidly spreading in different counties throughout the kingdom, and its benign influences will yet bless mankind; associative Emigration is the true principal to work upon, it will do more to mitigate the woes of our common humanity, than the numberless political agitations of the day; it will effectually strip emigration of the miseries and hardships that have so frequently attended the isolated wanderer. There are at the present time existing in a thorough organization, the "British Emigrants' Mutual Aid Society," of Yorkshire, with branches at London, Manchester, &c. The "British Temperance Emigration Society," of Liverpool, with branches in London, Sheffield, Worcester, &c.; likewise the "Albion Phalanx" of Associated Emigrants of London.

Perhaps I have sufficiently stated my view upon the subject of Emigration, and my object in presenting this little work to the public.

If it should have the effect of more correctly informing any among the thousands, whose attention is now directed to the rising destines of a kindred land, or of

contributing in any degree to their temporal happiness, then will my time have been usefully spent, and my task amply rewarded.

In conclusion, I beg to tender my heartfelt thanks to the many friends who have encouraged in the most tangible and kind manner this little enterprize, and I only desire that it may be my lot, through providence, to reciprocate, in some degree, the many evidences of unfeigned friendship, that I have experienced in the land of my ancestors.

J B. NEWHALL.

120, *Vauxhall Walk, Lambeth.*

LONDON, July, 1844.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
GREAT "VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI."

ALTHOUGH information of a specific, rather than a general character is the object of this little work, yet it may not be deemed foreign to the subject, or devoid of interest to the reader, to take a brief glance of the Great Valley of the Mississippi.

This vast and magnificent region, includes about two thirds of the entire territory of the United States, and contains more than a million and a quarter of square miles ; it is capable of sustaining a population of one hundred and fifty millions of souls. There is no part of the globe of equal extent, which has so small a portion of waste land and so great an amount of soil susceptible of cultivation. It is not only the Garden of America then, but of the world ! and well and truly might M. De Tocqueville, that learned French statesman exclaim, "It is the most magnificent dwelling place prepared by God for the abode of man."

This wide and fertile domain is at least six times as extensive as the whole of France, and ten times larger than the Island of Great Britain ; it is watered by rivers, that have been formed on the same corresponding

scale of vastness and grandeur ; these taking their rise in the far 'off mountains, on either side, *i.e.* (the Alleghanies on the East and the rocky mountains on the West) meander through the rich plains below for hundreds and frequently for thousands of miles, until they are emerged in that ceaseless flood which rolls along the bottom of the valley, called in the simple, yet eloquent language of the Natives, "*Misse-se-Po*, or the Father of the Mighty Waters."

The Great Valley of the Mississippi, may, with propriety be divided into four sub-divisions or sections, that portion which lies below the Ohio river, possessing peculiar ties of surface, soil and climate, is called the Lower Valley. This constitutes a portion of the Cotton, Tobacco, and Sugar growing states, and embraces Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi on the East, and the Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri upon the West.

That portion which lies above the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi, is called the "Upper Valley," and embraces Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin upon the East, and Iowa and a portion of Missouri on the West ; these may be denominated the Grain and Stock growing states—abounding with great natural meadows of exhaustless fertility, affording the richest herbage for Cattle, Hogs and Sheep ; the country watered by the Ohio, and its tributaries takes the name of the Ohio valley, and is similar in productions to the upper portions of the valley—while that wide and fertile region which lies along the Missouri, is appropriately called, the Vale of the Missouri.

ILLINOIS.

IN surveying the wide fields presented for Emigration at the present day, none appears to me to offer such ample scope for human enterprize, as the new Free States and Territories of Western America. Those portions which at present are particularly arresting the attention of the British Emigrant, may be embraced in the state of Illinois, and the two new territories of Iowa and Wisconsin, (especially the two latter territories); with a view to give the reader a tolerable idea of the geographical position, and general features, I shall commence with the state of Illinois.

The state of Illinois is bounded on the north by Wisconsin Territory; east by Indiana; south-east and south by the Ohio river, which separates it from Kentucky; and west by the Mississippi, which separates it from the State of Missouri and Iowa Territory. Its extreme length is 378 miles, and its extreme width 210 miles, containing an area of about 55,000 square miles.

Face of the Country, &c.—The surface is generally level; the southern and northern parts of the states are somewhat broken and hilly, but no where rising to an elevation deserving the name of a mountain. That portion of the state, south of a line from the mouth of the Kaskaskia, is mostly covered with timber; thence northward, prairie predominates. “The eye

sometimes wanders over immense plains, covered with grass, finding no limits to its vision but the distant horizon; while more frequently it wanders from grove to grove, and from one point of woodland to another, charmed and refreshed by an endless variety of scenic beauty." A range of bluffs, or hills, similar to the "Chilton Hills," commences on the margin of the Mississippi, (a short distance above the mouth of the Ohio,) and extends north to the Des Moines Rapids, sometimes rising abruptly from the waters edge, but most generally at a few miles distance, having, between the bluffs and the river, a strip of alluvial formation, of most exhaustless fertility. The soil throughout the state is generally very fertile. The forest trees most abundant are oak of different species, walnut, ash, elm, sugar, maple, locust, hackberry, buckeye, sycamore, &c. Lead is a very important mineral production of this state; copper and iron ore also exist. Coal abounds in the bluffs; several fine salt springs exist in the southern parts of the state. The vegetable productions are Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, potatoes, turnips, cotton, hemp, flax, tobacco, castor bean, all the various fruits yield luxuriantly; wild fruits, crab-apples, plums, grapes, strawberries, &c. are remarkably fine and plentiful; foreign vines are susceptible of easy cultivation. Every description of garden vegetable usually found in Great Britain, or the United States, is abundant, and what my English friends seldom enjoy, unless it be the forced productions of the "Hot House" melons and cantilopes in the greatest profusion and most delicious flavour.

Rivers.—The Mississippi, Ohio, and Wabash rivers

form more than two-thirds of the boundary of the state. The Big Muddy, Kaskaskia, Illinois and Rock Rivers, and many smaller streams, empty themselves into the Mississippi river. Chicago river empties into Lake Michigan, Vermilion, Embarras and Little Wabash into the Wabash, and Saline and Big Bay creeks into Ohio river.

Form of Government, &c.—The powers of government are divided into three distinct departments—the legislative, executive and judiciary. The legislative authority is vested in a general assembly, consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives. Elections are held biennially, as are the ordinary sessions of the legislature. Senators are elected for four years.

The executive power is vested in the governor, who is elected every fourth year by the electors for representatives; but the same person is ineligible for the next succeeding four years.

The judicial power is vested in a supreme court, and such inferior courts, as the general assembly shall from time to time establish.

The right of suffrage is universal. All white male inhabitants, twenty-one years of age, who have resided within the state six months preceding the elections, and all foreigners duly naturalized according to the acts of Congress, enjoy the free suffrage of Electors, Electors Votes are given *viva voce*.

The soil of Illinois is undoubtedly, in point of fertility and variety of productions, equal to any portion of the United States. There are, however, a few circumstances connected with the features of the country,

that would render it less attractive to the Emigrant, than either Iowa or Wisconsin, namely, too great a proportion of prairie land for the woodlands, and too much flat level prairie, which would render such portions more liable to disease. The country lying between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, known as the "Military Tract," likewise the Rock river region, and the celebrated Sangamon country, are among the most fertile, and picturesque regions of the "far west." Many English families, attracted hitherward within the past few years by the beauty of the country and low price of land, are now comfortably settled, having extensive farms under cultivation, with every indication of comfort and plenty. Illinois has occupied the attention of the English mind to considerable extent, from the fact of its having been the place of settlement, selected by Messrs. BIRBECK and FLOWER, some twenty years ago,—I believe they were very happy in their choice of location—although my preferences would lead me in a more northerly direction, yet, I conceive that the country in the neighbourhood, Albion,* presents some of the most attractive features to the English Emigrant that can be found in the "Boundless West." Albion is the seat of justice of Edward's county, near the borders of the Wabash, in the south-eastern portion of the state, at the period this settlement was made, the country was entirely new, much more so in its aspect than either Wisconsin or Iowa at the present day, consequently, the privations endured and the sacrifices made were much greater than the Emigrant will be called

* Flower and Birbeck's Settlement.

upon to make at the present time, and I would here take occasion to all the attention of the perule and faint-hearted Emigrant, (who, not having sufficient nerve to overcome the most trifling obstacles, returns home in a few months with frightful accounts, and “Bug Bear” stories of life in the west,) to a little work* recently written by one of the founders of this colony—here is the experience of twenty years set forth,—of the progress and vississitudes of frontier life, containing more practical truth and instruction upon the subjects of which it treats, than any little work I have met with; MORRIS BIRBECK described, in a most happy and graphic manner, the incidents and progress of that little band more than twenty years ago, but, in so doing, he committed a heresy in the eyes of many of his countrymen, and the periodical press of that day pounced upon him in a spirit of invective and vituperation, worthy of a better cause. Even Mr. COBBETT did not spare him,—but Cobbett would have retracted had he lived—he had too much practical sense not to see he had erred—MORRIS BIRBECK was right, but he unfortunately wrote in advance of public opinion and suffered the penalty as all men have and ever will—his name deserves to be revered by every Englishman. His surviving contemporary G. FLOWER, is a living witness of the success of that enterprise and the settlement of Albion will remain a monument of the utility of Emigration, when prejudiced demagouges and chicken hearted adventurers shall be forgotten.

* “Errors of Emigrants” by Geo. Flower. Published by Cleave, Shoe Lane, London.

Cities and Towns.

The principal Cities and Towns of Illinois are Chicago, Alton, Springfield, Galena, Jacksonville, Peoria, Quincy, Shawnetown, Ottawa, Vandalia, Pekin, &c., besides many more neat and flourishing villages, the seats of justice of the different counties. Springfield is the seat of Government and is situated about four miles south of a beautiful and extensive prairie, adorned with excellent and well cultivated farms, stretching away on every side, to the blue line of the distant forest, Springfield was laid off seventeen years ago, when the country was entirely uninhabited; it now rears the proud dome of its State House, and the glittering spires of several churches, that would do honour to some of the most respectable towns of England. The population consist of between 3 or 4,000.

Chicago; is the great commercial and maritime Depôt in the northern part of the state, situated on the south-western shore of Lake Michigan; it is the largest place in the state, and presents a very animated and city like appearance; here may be seen streets thronged with the waggons of the moving Emigrant and the Farmer, who has brought his grain and pork from the remote interior; wharfs lined with ships, lugs, schooners, and magnificent steam-boats, bearing their merchandize across the bosom of the great lakes. Chicago is the port of debarkation for the Emigrant whose destination is northern Illinois, (*vide* by the lakes.) Chicago is destined to become one of the largest cities west of the Allegany mountains—being at the terminus

of the great chain of lakes—its position, like New Orleans will concentrate the trade of thousands of miles.

Alton is next in consideration to Chicago, and is situated on the east bank of the Mississippi river, two miles above the Missouri, eighteen miles below the Illinois, and about one thousand two hundred miles from New Orleans. This place was laid out as a town in 1818, but it has only been within the last eight or ten years, that public attention has been turned to it as an emporium of trade ; here is situated the state penitentiary. The town presents a fine appearance from the river—many of the warehouses are noble structures of brick and stone. Alton has several fine churches, (many of the private residences display a high degree of taste.) The traveller will pass Alton in ascending the upper Mississippi from St. Louis.

Quincy is also a beautiful town, situated on the east bank of the Mississippi, being about 160 miles above St. Louis, and contains an enterprising and intelligent community of about three thousand souls. In the centre of the town, above the bluff of the Mississippi, is the public square, (about the size of Russell Square, London,) planted with trees and surrounded with some of the finest buildings of the place, among which are the court house of brick, and one of the largest hotels of the state. The Emigrant or Tourist will most probably have an opportunity of exercising his limbs in an hours ramble over the town, as the steam boats usually stop an hour or two to discharge, and receive frieght.

Galena, is the principal town in the lead mine dis-

trict, situated in the north-western part of the state, on Fever river,* a few miles from the Mississippi. Galena is a place of great trade and rising importance, being in the centre of the great Mineral region of the Upper Mississippi; hither steam-boats arrive and depart almost daily from St. Louis; a constant communication also exists by steam with New Orleans, Louisville, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh; Lead is the great staple of export, which gives rise to a vast amount of retail trade of every description. Mechanics and Tradespeople would be likely to succeed well in Galena, as there is always considerable amount of money circulating, lead always commanding the cash. It has a population of about four thousand inhabitants—the principal streets are compactly built and present quite a commercial appearance; the situation of Galena, though far from being beautiful is picturesque, being built on the declivity of a range of hills; it contains from 75 to 100 mercantile establishments, six hotels, five churches,—publishes two weekly newspapers—has several tri-weekly lines of coaches to Chicago, Peoria, Mineral points, &c.

To the British Emigrant designing to settle in northern Illinois, or the western portion of Wisconsin; Galena would be a very eligible point to stop at, if he landed at New Orleans.

Peoria is famed for its beautiful location; it is situated on the west side of the Illinois river, about one

* From the French *La Fievre*; the name is no criterion of health, being one of the healthiest towns in the State.

hundred and seventy miles from its mouth, at the foot of Lake Peoria ; as a natural site for a town, it is probably unsurpassed in the world ? The land on which Peoria is built rises in three successive banks, or terraces ; upon the second terrace the town is built, which contains about three thousand inhabitants ; from the bluffs that overlook the town, the prospect is surpassingly beautiful ; looking towards the east, the traveller beholds an extensive prairie, verdant in Spring as the park of an English nobleman, while in Summer, the brilliant hues of a thousand flowers form the most delightful contrast ; at his very feet the town of Peoria lays spread out before him, the glittering dome of the court house and numerous dwellings of snowy whiteness, sprinkled about the suburbs,—perchance a steam-boat crossing the lake, and the groves of timber on the opposite shore all combine to form a panorama of rare and attractive beauty. Should the traveller wish to visit Peoria steam communication will be found with St. Louis, and thence uniting with Chicago by steam-boat and stage coach ; likewise communicating by stage coach to Burlington, in Iowa, passing through the celebrated “ Military Tract ” one of the most beautiful districts in Illinois.

Many more interesting towns in Illinois might be described with equal justice, but which the prescribed limits of this work forbid.

IOWA.

HAVING given the reader some of the main features of Illinois, I shall now invite him to accompany me to the new and interesting territory of Iowa. This highly favoured region embraces all that portion of country, lying north of the state of Missouri, and west of the Mississippi river, which separates it from the state of Illinois. Its northern boundary is the line dividing the British possessions and the United States; thence west by the White Earth river, down the said river to its junction with the Missouri; thence following Missouri to the state line of Missouri; thence eastwardly along the said boundary to the river Des Moines thence down said river to the Mississippi, embracing the half-bred reservation of the Sacs and Foxes.

The rapid progress and present condition of this fertile region, stretching its green lawns and wooded banks along the majestic Mississippi, the variety and luxuriance of its agricultural productions, its richness of mineral wealth, its thousand rivulets and streams, which are destined to pour out its exhaustless treasures, and carry back comfort and luxuries to its remotest borders; its physical aspect, in short, combines as many requisites for human enterprize and the happiness of man, as is developed in any tract of country on the same extent on the face of the globe.

When the reader reflects, that but in 1832 and '33, these fertile plains were the hunting grounds of the red man ; the Indian lodge skirted the margin of every stream where now cities and hamlets have sprung up, as if by the enchanter's wand, where manufactures and commerce flourish, literature and the arts are diffusing their invigorating influence, surely, he must believe in the prophetic declaration that " Westward the Star of Empire takes its way," and that its fulfilment is rapidly advancing. Iowa is the youngest territory of the American Union ; it was formerly a portion of Wisconsin ; originally, both territories were attached to Michigan. In 1836, Michigan was received in the confederacy of States ; on the 4th of July, the same year, Wisconsin was organized, embracing within its limits the present territory of Iowa : such was the rapid increase of population, that on the 4th of July, 1838, (only two years) Wisconsin was divided by the line of the Mississippi river, and that portion lying upon the western shore, was recognized by act of Congress, the territory of Iowa. Ten years ago Iowa was beyond the pale of civilization—it now contains a population of 80,000 souls ! Perhaps the sceptical reader is inclined to doubt : surely, he thinks these things cannot be. Let us digress for a moment, and you shall go back with me to those early scenes ; early ! Do I say ? They are like yesterday—ten years have scarcely elapsed since a mere handful of adventurers first set their feet upon the western shore of the Mississippi, in what was then called the " Black Hawk Purchase." The country was

new and unhabited, all was the still quite of nature, save
 “The Song of Birds, and sound of Running Stream.”

No cheerful hearth allured the travellers, but, by the
 camp fire they cooked the wild “Prairie Bird,” and
 watched by the twinkling stars, they courted

“Nature’s sweet restorer, upon the Green Earth’s bosom.”

But a change has been wrought—the great work of
 civilization has commenced—society has progressed—
 towns have been built up and flourished—farms have
 been opened—school houses erected, and wide fields
 are seen with their golden harvests.

Reader: you may think this a dash of romance, to
 me it has been a reality; a ten years experience of the
 happiest portion of my life. Thus my own eyes have be-
 held that ceaseless tide of population roll onward,
 without abatement, until it has spread over the praries
 of Iowa and Wisconsin a population (within ten years)
 of 170,000 souls! Such is a meagre picture of the rapid
 advancement of the New States of America. O ’tis a
 glorious work to be a participator in raising the first
 land marks of civilization in a young and rising state.
 And ye of the cities think us, half Cannibals: could
 ye but look in upon us, and see how much we enjoy,
 how soon would your prejudices vanish. O how often
 I have wished from the bottom of my heart, in walking
 the streets of London, that the forlorn and dejected of
 my race could be suddenly transplanted to breath the
 free air of the prairies, and eat therefrom the bread of
 peace and contentment; cold indeed must be that
 spirit, whose sympathies are withheld when able to
 point out such boon to suffering humanity. Take courage

then, ye that suffer—there is for you a share in the untold treasures of the new world.

Face of the Country.—The general aspect of the country is one of unrivalled beauty,—it is what may be termed moderately undulating, no part of the territory being traversed by mountains, or even high hills, (if we except the northern or mineral region, where the hills and mounds are of considerable magnitude;) on the margin of rivers, there are frequent ranges of “bluffs,” or calcareous strata of lime rock, intersected with ravines. The southern portion of the territory may be termed the most picturesque, abounding with grassy lawns and verdant vales, interspersed with groves and meandering rivulets. The northern parts would seem to partake more of the bold and striking. The traveller here beholds the hill-top crowned with towering oaks to its lofty summit—the river tumbling its crested foam over precipitous ledges of cragged rocks—the spiral cliffs and massy ledges grouped in fantastic forms amidst the cultivated valley. It is, indeed, a singular feature in the mineral region of Iowa, that the country abounding in the richest ore is frequently in the neighbourhood of the most fertile fields of grain. The territory is remarkably well watered by beautiful rivers and creeks, the margins of which are skirted with woodlands and groves. One of the striking characteristics of Iowa and Wisconsin over many prairie countries, is the admirable distribution of prairie and woodlands to the wants and convenience of the husbandman.

Although probably nearly three fourths of the territory is without trees, yet so happily and conveniently

are the waters and timber arranged throughout, that nature appears to have made an effort to arrange them in the most desirable manner possible.

I cannot forbear in this place, quoting a short extract descriptive both of Iowa and Wisconsin from the *New Orleans Bee*—Although written at the period of their separation as distinct territories, it most happily portrays the rising destinies of each :—

“ Both these infant sections of our country, in the greater part of their extent, are among the most fertile portions of our vast domain. They abound with mineral resources of great value, are irrigated by numerous navigable streams, and are supplied with every facility for converting their mineral and agricultural productions into the most convenient and profitable marketable form. They are divided into prairies and woodland so as almost wholly to dispense with the labour of clearing, which was and still continues to be so material a drawback upon most of the Western States. At the same time a sufficient quantity of timber is afforded for every purpose for which it may be required. The face of the country is high and undulating, with but little barren or broken lands, except in the mining regions, and the scenery is extremely picturesque and romantic. The portion of Wisconsin lying north of the river of the same name, is nearly covered with a dense forest of white pine, and is abundantly supplied with water privileges by which this valuable timber may be prepared for transportation or home consumption, with the utmost ease and cheapness. The climate of this extensive region is perhaps as propitious to health as that of any country in the world. Its remoteness from the ocean secures it from those insalubrious winds, which brings with them such a host of pulmonary disorders on the northern seaboard, while its high and dry soil, and pure atmosphere, preserve it from the fatal fevers to which the flatter surface and more fervid sun of the lower Mississippi, often subject the denizens of the South.

S O I L.

The soil of the prairies both of Iowa and Wisconsin is extremely rich and productive; it is generally a black vegetable mould, sometimes intermingled with a sandy loam, and generally covered with a sward of natural grass, which soil, after the sod is once turned by the plough is easily cultivated, and stands a drought remarkably well. From its undulating character it will require no expense of artificial drainage like much of the lands of England. The soil on the high rolling prairies will average from eighteen to twenty-four inches, and on the "bottom" lands from twenty-four to forty-eight inches in depth! The surface is nearly black, but becomes lighter in descending, until it imperceptibly mingles into a bed or substrata of reddish clay; sometimes mixed with gravel, sufficiently compact, however, to preserve moisture, and yet not so stubborn as to be incapable of being pulverized and converted into excellent productive soil. It appears to make but little difference what kind of crop is placed in the ground; whatever is sown yields most abundantly, and probably a hundred years successive cultivation would not exhaust the rich mould at the surface; hence there is no necessity of compost, "Guano,"* and all the appliances of Chemical Science to our soil.

My English Friends often exclaims, "Oh! I never

* An article of manure recently introduced into England, which promises material benefit, to the productiveness of sterile soil.

learnt to farm." Such an objection would make a western settler smile. "Never learnt to farm! It requires no philosophy to plant seed or to hold the plough; Perhaps one third of our western farmers have, at some former day, been mechanics, traders, merchants, lawyers and doctors in some of the Old States.

There is a third stratum of bluish and sometimes an ocherish clay, twenty to thirty feet below the surface; in the upland prairie, and it is only necessary for the settler to sink a well, to obtain excellent water whenever he may require it.

PRODUCTIONS.

Nearly all the great prominent staple productions of the United States and of England, are grown luxuriantly in these territories: and every year furnishes further developements in their vast mineral treasures.

The agricultural productions consist principally of Indian Corn, or Maize, Wheat, Rye, Oats, Buckwheat, Barley, Potatoes, Turnips, Onions, Beans, Peas, Pumpkins, Melons, Tomatoes, Hops, Tobacco, Hemp, Flax, the Castor Bean, and in short all kinds of garden vegetables usually found in the United States, or Great Britain,

Clover, Timothy, and every description of artificial grass grows most luxuriantly, and well repay the labour of the husbandman ; and perhaps no country can excel this in its capacity for rearing the choicest fruits, and fruit bearing shrubs : wild fruit, crabb apples, goose berries, wild plums, and strawberries, are remarkably fine. Foreign Vines are susceptible of easy cultivation ; the indeginous vines are prolific and produce excellent fruits. Of Grains, Indian Corn, (Maize) Wheat, Rye and Oats may be considered among the most staple productions. The Indian Corn is to a great extent converted into meal, and used for bread ; many people give it the preference over wheat. The comparative ease with which it is cultivated would astonish many English farmers. Its average yield may be estimated from forty to seventy bushels to the acre ! with what an English farmer would term careless cultivation. but with proper attention it might easily be made to yield one hundred bushels per acre ! Wheat yields a good and sure crop, both in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois, and with ordinary attendance thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre, may be set down as an average crop. The wheat of this country is of excellent quality generally weighing upwards of sixty pounds to the bushel, it ripens well, and is dry and sound, while it is somewhat remarkable that it is seldom if ever troubled with rust or smut.

Oats yield very abundantly and will average seventy to eighty bushels per acre. Neither Rye, or Barley have as yet, been extensively cultivated, yet the

climate and soil is in every respect congenial to their growth and excellence.

Tobacco can be produced in any quantity, and it only requires the attention of the enterprising to embark in this profitable branch of cultivation, the soil and climate favouring in every respect its cultivation. (See culture of tobacco, page 66).

The cultivation of the Sugar Beet-root, and the manufacture of Sugar, can, without doubt be carried on advantageously in Iowa and Illinois. A gentleman who has travelled extensively in France, and had frequent opportunities of examining personally the soil on which that root is grown, considers the praries of Illinois and Iowa, much superior for that object. Much sugar is obtained from the sugar-maple, and a visit to the "Sugar Camps" to witness the process of manufacturing, is quite interesting to those unacquainted with it. It was estimated that about 50,000lbs of sugar was made from the sugar maple trees of Iowa in the year 1839. Regarding the adaptation of the praries for Wool growing, rearing of Stock, Swine, &c. the reader is referred to the article page .

Timber or Woodlands.

My description of Woodlands will be applicable to both Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, as the same descriptions abound throughout these countries, (excepting the

Wisconsin Pineries, which will be hereafter described. The growth of the uplands consist of every variety of Oak, Sugar-Maple, Hickory, Linn, Hackberry, Hazel, Cherry, White Walnut, Mulberry, &c. The Bottom, or interval lands produce several species of Ash, Sycamore, Black Walnut, Mulberry, Bur Oak, Elm, Cotton Wood, Pawpaw, Grape Vine, Plum, Dogwood, Spice Bush, Sumac, and a variety of other descriptions of trees and shrubs.

The Black Walnut is much used for building materials and cabinet work, and sustains a fine polish. The different species of Oaks, Walnut, and Hackberry are used for fencing.

The Sycamore is the "Buttunwood" of New England, is frequently hollow, and in that state used by farmers, being cut of various lengths, is cleaned and used as depositories for grain, well-curbs, casks, bee-hives, &c.

In the northern portions of Wisconsin are immense pineries, were mills are already established and large rafts of pine lumber are floated down the Mississippi river, and sold out at the different growing towns; by this means the whole country will be supplied with the best building materials, at very low rates. Even at this time, the price of lumber is one half what it was six years ago. Deals and planks that six years ago I paid forty to fifty dollars per thousand feet, (£8 to £10) can now be obtained at fifteen to twenty dollars, (*i.e.*) £3 to £4 per thousand feet.

Rivers.

THE principal rivers of Iowa are the Mississippi, which forms the entire eastern boundary; the Iowa, which is navigable for steam-boats to Iowa city, about ninety miles from its mouth; the rivers Des Moines, Red Cedar, Checanque, Wapsipinecon, Makoqueta, Turkey and Yellow, all emptying into the Mississippi. There are numerous other small streams, presenting admirable facilities for mills and machinery. The neighbourhoods are generally well supplied with mills for sawing various kinds of Lumber (Deals) grinding Indian Corn, Wheat, &c.; very few windmills are to be seen in any of the western states or territories. In all my travels in Europe, both in France and England, I have been forcibly struck with the superiority of our country, as a well watered region, either as regards navigation, manufacturing or grazing.

PRAIRIES,

And their striking resemblance of the Landscape to many views in England and Belgium.

“These the unshorn fields, boundless and beautiful,
For which the speech of England has no name,—
The Praries.”

Undoubtedly one of the most captivating features in the landscape scenery of Western America, is our unique and beautiful diversified praries, or unwooded

tracts ; they are in truth, the gardens of nature. And who? that has been an eye witness, can forget the impressions made upon his feelings, when, for the first time he gazed with rapturous delight upon the boundless praries? * their characteristic peculiarity is the absence of timber; in other respects they present all the varieties of soil and surface that are found elsewhere. Sometimes they are spread out in boundless plains ; at other times, they are gently rolling, like the swell of the sea after a subsiding storm. A diversity of opinion exists as to the origin of praries. Their undulating and finished surface, crowned with the richest alluvial mould, bears ample proof (in the writer's mind) of their having been at some anterior period, emerged beneath the waters of vast lakes or inland seas ; and subsequently receding, have formed natural channels in the vast rivers with which our country abounds. Hence the rich alluvial deposit, and fossil remains that so frequently occur; also the laminæ formation of secondary lime rock, and strata of soil, are all evidences of a once submerged country.

These meadows of nature are covered with a rich coat of natural grass, forming excellent grazing for cattle, and are frequently interspersed with hazel thickets, Sassafras shrubs, &c. , and in the season of flowers are decorated with all that is captivating and lovely, both in fragrance and colours. The traveller now beholds these boundless plains untouched by the hand of man, clothed with the deepest verdure, interspersed

* Prarie is a French word signifying Meadow.

here and there with beautiful groves, which appear like islands in the ocean :—the writer has often travelled amidst these enchanting scenes, on horseback, for hundreds of miles, long before civilization commenced, sometimes treading a narrow defile made by the Red man, through the tall grass six feet high ; and again suddenly emerging to a broad expanse of thousands of acres covered with ever variegated flowers ; again some tempting thicket, allures the wayfarer to refresh himself from the plum bushes, whose branches hang in purple clusters ; or perchance, he espies a sunny slope reddened with delicious strawberries.

Yet reader : many people tell me to my face, that such a country is not fit to live in “ Who could think of living away off there, out of the world.” They frequently say, Why ; I am almost tempted to believe, that the dumb animals, know by instinct, that God made it for the children of men to dwell therein and be happy.

Many people have entertained an idea that the prairies were universally low flat lands—such an opinion has existed to some extent in the Atlantic States of America, prairie does not imply flat or wet—our rolling prairies present all the undulating features and diversity of surface that are to be met within many portions of England.

Europeans are generally reminded of the resemblance of our prairie scenery to that of the extensive parks, the copse, and lawn which they have been so much accustomed to admire in their native land.

My English friends, at the first view of our prairies

would be reminded of Home, much more than the American from the Atlantic States. The English, the French, and Belgians, have a similitude of comparison with their own landscapes. The Associations of the New Englander, and all the inhabitants of the Atlantic border is woods, interminable woods. I well remember my first impressions, the first hour I set foot upon the shores of Old England, landing in a beautiful bay on the coast of Sussex,* I involuntarily exclaimed—How much the scenery of Britain reminds me of our prairies : many spots in England, since, have forcibly reminded me of the scenery of Western America ; for instance, the vale of Worcestershire from the summit of the “ Malvern Hills,” is a very striking delineation except perhaps, that the woodlands of Worcestershire and Herefordshire are more generally distributed, whereas, in Iowa and Wisconsin, it would follow the rivulets and water courses.

Likewise the scenery of the Thames, above Twickenham, affords a striking resemblance of many sequestered spots upon the banks of the Upper Mississippi, and Des Moines rivers ; and that charming panoramic view from Richmond Hill, has never failed to produce in my mind, the most vivid recollections of Home.

Don't sneer ! Reader ; for I know what I say, I have been an eye witness to both. Other portions of our country are more like France and Belgium.

The English Tourist who has travelled over the pleasant road from Brussels to Waterloo, along the

* The quiet village of East Bourne.

edge of the wood Soigoine, will have an admirable standard of comparison, for much of the landscape scenery, both of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Performing a pedestrian excursion some few months ago through that picturesque country, I often stopped by the road side to contemplate the scene. It required no stretch of the imagination to picture many of the identical spots that I have often travelled over on the American praries, especially the noted "Military Tract" of Illinois and the Des Moines river country of Iowa.

I cannot better conclude my chapter upon the praries, than by adding the corroborating testimony of that gifted writer Judge Hall, which most happily delineates the beauties of prairie scenery, and which is strictly applicable to the interesting regions upon which these pages treat.

"The attraction of the prairie consists in its extent, its carpet of verdure and flowers, its undulating surface, its groves, and the fringe of timber by which it is surrounded. Of all these, the latter is the most expressive feature—it is that which gives character to the landscape, which imparts the shape, and marks the boundary of the plain. If the prairie be small, its greatest beauty consists in the vicinity of the surrounding margin of woodland, which resembles the shore of a lake, indented with deep vistas, like bays and inlets, and throwing out long points, like capes and headlands; while occasionally these points approach so close on either hand, that the traveller passes through a narrow avenue or strait, where the shadows of the woodland fall upon his path, and then again emerges into another prairie. Where the plain is large, the forest outline is seen in the far perspective, like the dim shore, when beheld at a distance from the ocean. The eye sometimes roams over the green meadow, without discovering a tree, a shrub, or any object in the im-

mense expanse, but the wilderness of grass and flowers ; while at another time, the prospect is enlivened by the groves, which are seen interspersed like islands, or the solitary tree, which stands alone in the blooming desert.

If it be in the spring of the year, and the young grass has just covered the ground with a carpet of elegant green, and especially if the sun is rising from behind a distant swell of the plain, and glittering upon the dewdrops, no scene can be more lovely to the eye. The deer is seen grazing quietly upon the plain ; the bee is on the wing ; the wolf, with his tail drooped, is sneaking away to his covert, with the felon tread of one who is conscious that he has disturbed the peace of nature ; and the grouse, feeding in flock or pairs, like the domestic fowl, cover the whole surface.

“The gaiety of the prairie, its embellishments, and the absence of the gloom and savage wildness of the forest, all contribute to dispel the feeling of loneliness which usually creep over the mind of the solitary traveller in the wilderness. Though he may not see a house, or a human being, and is conscious that is far from the habitations of men, he can scarcely divest himself of the idea that he is travelling, through scenes embellished by the hand of art. The flowers, so fragile, so delicate, and so ornamental seem to have been tastefully disposed to adorn the scene. The groves and clumps of trees appear to have been scattered over the lawn to beautify the landscape, and it is not easy to avoid that illusion of the fancy which persuades the beholder, that such scenery has been created to gratify the refined taste of civilized man.”

Climate, Season, &c.

Perhaps among all the long catalogue of privations and benefits respecting Emigration, none is more worthy the consideration of the Emigrant than Climate; and I doubt if upon any one topic there has been more conflicting testimony. The salubriousness of climate, in the New States of America, depends much upon locality. The thermometer does not range more widely here than in similar latitudes east of the Alleghanies. We are exempt, too, from those easterly winds, so searching and blasting in their effects to the invalid of pulmonary complaints, upon the seaboard. Along the "bottom" lands of the rivers and water-courses, which are occasionally subject to inundation, there will be a liability and predisposition to bilious disease, fever, ague, &c. But upon the uplands, and broad rolling prairies, the atmosphere becomes salubrious, and entirely free from "miasma." In short, there is almost every day, in the elevated portions of country, a breeze from some quarter, as refreshing as that from the ocean. I think I shall be borne out in the assertion by the unanimous testimony of the settlers of Iowa and Wisconsin, and corroborated by my own observations, that aside from locations in the immediate vicinity of swamps and low "bottom" lands, the country is as free from disease as the most favoured regions of the union.

People frequently, in emigrating to a new country,

get sick from exposure, by living in damp, uncomfortable houses, change of diet, &c., and attribute it all to the climate.

Many diseases prevalent in the east are not known here. In all my acquaintance with the country, during a residence of eight or nine years, I have never heard of a case of consumption having originated in the country; but have known numerous instances of people who emigrated from the old states with diseased lungs, (what medical men would term settled consumption) entirely recover.

WINTER.

The winters usually commence with December, and end about the first of March. They are generally dry and bracing, although the month of February frequently presents a temperature quite variable. From the experience of seven or eight winters, I should pronounce the temperature somewhat milder than the Atlantic states in the same parallel of latitude, north as Prairie du Chien.

SUMMER AND SPRING.

The first spring months are generally disagreeable and cheerless, and anything but what the softness of the name indicates. March often sets in with rain, and the Emigrant who should chance to arrive at this time, might form quite an unfavorable opinion of the climate, but should he wait until the middle of April, he is delighted with the contrast. The groves have resumed their foliage, the prairies are covered with their brilliant carpets of green, and all nature around appears to smile in gladness, to be released from the chilly habiliments

of winter. The summers are warm, yet they may not be considered oppressively hot. During the sultry months, the heat is modified by soft, genial breezes and delightful showers, which are constantly giving the atmosphere a very reviving elasticity. No sight can be more beautiful and fascinating to the lover of nature, than the landscape scenery of the prairies, after a refreshing summer shower.

AUTUMN,

The autumns of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois, are somewhat peculiar in their beauty and serenity. The oppressive summer heat is over by the last of August, and from that time until the middle of November, the mellow softness of the climate, the beauty and grandeur of the foliage, the dry and natural roads that cross our prairies, the balmy fragrance of the atmosphere, the serene sky, all combined, present to the eye of the traveller, a picture calculated to excite emotions of wonder and delight. "But I never could endure your oppressive heat," my English friends often exclaim; and I confess I think it would annoy them somewhat for the first year or two,—yet the "oppressive heat," rarely continues more than two or three days at a time. That the Western States of America are not unfavourable to human life, may be inferred from the unprecedented increase of their population. The number of inhabitants in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin, cannot be less than five millions! Had they been

unhealthy, it is quite incredible that in the short period of half a century such great numbers could have congregated within their borders.

Mr. Peck, observes, and he is good authority—"The same causes for disease exist in Ohio as in Missouri; in Michigan as in Illinois; in Kentucky and Tennessee as in Indiana. All have localities where intermittents and agues are found, and all possess extensive districts of country where health is enjoyed, by a large proportion of emigrants. There is some difference between a heavily timbered and a prairie country, in favor of the latter, other circumstance being equal. Changes, favorable to continued health, are produced by the settlements and cultivation of the country. In fine, I am prepared to give my opinion, decidedly, in favor of this country and climate. I would not certainly be answerable for all the bad locations, the imprudence and whims of all classes of emigrants, which may operate unfavourably to health."

Public Lands.

Mode of Purchasing—System of Surveys,—Land Offices, &c.

The government price of land in the United States, is 1.25 cents. per acre, equal to five shillings sterling. The mode of purchase is very simple—the method of surveys is one of great accuracy and beauty. The General Land Office is established at Washington city. Several offices, each under the direction of a surveyor general, have been established from time to time. The office for the surveys of all public lands in Ohio, Mi-

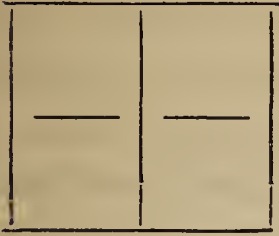
chigan, and Indiana, is located in Cincinnati. The one for the States of Illinois and Missouri, is at St. Louis. Another is established for the territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, at Du Buque. These tracts are subdivided into land districts, having an office attached to each. Meridan lines are established and surveyed in a line due north from some important point, generally from some important water-courses. These are intersected at right angles with a base line. On the meridians, the "townships" are numbered north or south from the base lines, and on the base lines "ranges" east or west of the meridian. When a meridian and base line have been laid out, township lines are run (at a distance of six miles) parallel to the meridian and base lines. This forms Townships of six miles square, containing an area of thirty-six square miles. Each square mile is termed a section, and contains 640 acres. The sections are numbered from one to thirty-six, beginning at the north-east corner of the township, as in the following diagram :

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16*	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

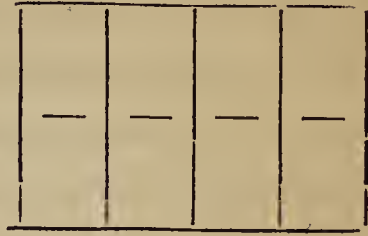
* The 16th Section in each Township is appropriated for Schools.

Sections are divided in quarter sections of one hundred and sixty acres each: see diagram, (No. 1.)
Diagram (No. 2.) Eighty Acres.

No. 1.



No. 2.



When surveyed, the lands are offered for sale at public auction, but cannot be disposed of at a less price than one dollar and a quarter *i.e.* (five shillings sterling) per acre. That portion not sold at public auction, is subject to private entry at any time, for the above price, payable in cash at the time of entry.

Pre-emption rights give the improver or possessor the privilege of purchasing at the minimum price. All lands purchased from the general government are exempted from taxes for five years, from the day of sale.

I have thus endeavoured to elucidate in the preceding diagram, the system of the surveys of public lands, that to strangers unacquainted with the sections and subdivisions, appear perplexing and intricate.

By this admirable system, all divisions are in mathematical forms, precluding the frequent sources of litigation, arising from the uncertainty and awkwardness

of bounds and zigzag lines. No sight can be more captivating than in crossing one of our thickly settled prairies, to behold the beautiful square fields of waving grain, or meadow, frequently one to two hundred acres enclosed. Each land office is under the superintendance of two officers, the one called the register of the land, the other the receiver of the public monies. These offices are kept open for the purpose of disposing of the surveyed lands, to any person who may apply for them; thus on paying five shillings, two pence halfpenny (English money) per acre, you receive a *fee simple* title from the government of the United States, of the richest soil in the world! The foreigner being on an equal footing with the American.

The territories of Iowa and Wisconsin form one district, under the control of a surveyor general, whose office is established by Congress at Du Buque in the territory of Iowa.

Land Offices.

Where established.

Iowa.

Northern District, at Du Buque.—*Dubuque County*.

Southern Dist.—Ditto.—*Fairfield, Jefferson County*.

Wisconsin.

At Mineral Point. Green Bay. Milwaukie.

Illinois.

At Shawnetown, Kaskaskia, Edwardsville, Vandalia, Pallestine, Springfield, Quincy, Danville, Gelana and Chicago.

BEST FIELDS FOR SETTLEMENT.

In surveying the different portions of country to which your attention has been directed, I will endeavour to point out several different counties and "tracts" that are worthy of your especial examination on arrival in the territory of Iowa, I would recommend the counties of Jefferson, Washington, Cedar, Linn, Jones and Clayton—Jefferson and Washington counties will be found to possess a very agreeable and salubrious climate, being about the latitude of New York City. In order to give the reader a tolerable idea of the physical features of this region, I append an extract from my own reports published in 1841, entitled "sketches of Iowa," giving a description of Jefferson and Jones counties, about the time of their commencement, which will also be found generally applicable to the adjacent counties.

Jefferson County.

This is one of the new counties of Iowa, being organized in 1839, from a portion of the western part of Henry, and the Indian purchase of 1837. It is bounded north by Washington, east by Henry, south by Van Buren, and west by the country of the Sacs and Foxes,* and contains an area of

* The country is now purchased westward, ten millions of acres in September 1842.

about 380 square miles, and is attached to the first judicial district. In point of fertility of soil, excellence of timber, beauty of scenery, and a healthy location, Jefferson will rank among the most desirable counties of Iowa. No better evidence can be adduced in favor of its combined excellencies than the fact, that previous to October 21st, 1837, more than one half of the whole county belonged to the Sacs and Foxes, (consequently not subject to occupancy by the whites,) since which time the population has augmented to 4,780 inhabitants! Jefferson is well watered by the Checauque or Skunk, and its various tributaries, the principal of which are Big Cedar and its tributaries on the south, and Walnut, Richland, and Brush creeks on the north. These streams abound with excellent timber, embracing the usual descriptions of oak, hickory, walnut, locust, linn, &c., with a sufficiency of water-power to supply the demands of the adjacent country, both for sawing and grinding. Stone coal has been discovered about the tributaries of Big Cedar, also a sufficiency of excellent lime rock for building purposes. The prairies between Brush and Walnut creeks, and also betwixt Brush and Cedar creeks are small, and well adapted for agricultural purposes. Near the forks of Walnut Creek is a heavy body of timber called the Rich Woods; the soil is excellent, with abundance of rock and stone coal, and will admit of large and extensive settlements. North and west of these woods is a delightful tract of country known as Pleasant Prairie, and extending west, over the boundary line, to the Indian country.

Locust Grove, near Big Cedar, and on the late purchase adjacent to the Indian boundary line, is beautifully situated, about five miles in extent, and one mile wide, encompassed by broad and gently rolling prairies. Here is a large settlement called the "Locust Grove Settlement," and is rapidly increasing.

The *Round Prairie*, is situated in the south-eastern portion of the county, encircled by stately groves of oak, hickory, walnut, linn, &c., and rapidly settling with an enterprising population. Here are farms not inferior in extent and cultivation to the old counties on the Mississippi. The author, in passing through this settlement in June last on horseback, counted more than seventy different improvements.

Fairfield is the seat of justice of Jefferson county, and the only town of note in the county. It occupies a handsome location on the south-west side of a beautiful grove, and presents the novel aspect of a young city springing spontaneously out of the garden spot of a wilderness. Here is heard the sound of the hammer, where, but as yesterday, nought was heard but the fierce "warwhoop;" and here are seen the cattle grazing quietly upon the lawn, where, but as yesterday, the elk and the deer were the undisturbed occupants of the wide domain. Population of Jefferson in June, 1840, 2,780.

JONES COUNTY.

Jones county is bounded north by Delaware and Dubuque, east by Jackson and Clinton, south by Cedar, and west by Linn. It embraces sixteen townships, and contains an area of 576 square miles. Population

in 1838, 241, and in June, 1840, 1,475 inhabitants. Jones county is well watered by the Wapsipinecon, and its numerous tributaries, which pursues a south-easterly course entirely across the county. The south branch of the Makoqueta also pursues a parallel course through the north-eastern part of the county, and still further in the north-east corner flows the north fork of the Makoqueta, through one of the most captivating regions of country that the imagination of man can picture, interspersed with gentle undulations of hill and dale, possessed of the most fertile soil, and sprinkled over with groves and copse of woodlands in all the loveliness of Arcadian beauty. Nature, as if to perfect her works in this her chosen spot, for the use and convenience of man, has designed the limpid waters of the Makoqueta to flow over a natural fall, some seven or eight feet high, with permanent banks on either side.

Here is a village recently laid out, bordering upon the line of Dubuque county, called "Cascade; it bids fair to become an interesting and important point. The military road established by act of congress, running from Dubuque county to the Missouri line, crosses at this point. There is an extensive flouring-mill in successful operation, a spacious hotel, dry-goods store, and post office recently established. Altogether, I conceive the neighbourhood about the falls of Makoqueta (now the village of Cascade) to present as happy a combination of the picturesque, the grand and beautiful in its landscape scenery, as any other spot I ever met with: that it is comparatively unknown and unappreciated even by the citizens of Iowa, I am well aware,

and were I to assume the gift of prophecy, I should say, that, at no distant day, the falls of Makoqueta, will be the seat of large manufacturing establishments, of busy trade and active commerce. It is in the midst of the elements of greatness, both in an agricultural and mineral point of view, and it only awaits the successful hand of enterprise to unfold its treasures.

The Wapsipinecon is a beautiful river, and is believed by many to be susceptible of steamboat navigation for boats of light draught, although (in my opinion) the frequent and very short bends in the river may operate as serious obstacles. Its rises are high and sudden, being often tri-annually. It drains a fertile country, and has much valuable water-power.

The Buffalo fork of the Wapsipinecon, though not the largest, is probably one of the most valuable mill-streams in this portion of the territory. Its numerous tributaries afford abundance of water for sawing and grinding at all seasons of the year. About one mile from the mouth of Buffalo creek, is located the town of Dartmouth. The military road intersects at this point. Mills are already established for sawing and grinding, and it is in contemplation to erect a large flouring establishment, to which will be attached circular saws for the convenience of mechanics. This point presents many inducements to the emigrant, and the enterprising proprietors design to establish its foundation on principles that will ensure its steady and vigorous growth. The county seat of Jones is established at Edinburgh, in the geographical centre. It has not,

as yet, become a place of much note. The water-courses of Jones are generally skirted with a sufficiency of excellent timber; in the intervening country the prairies are inclined to be large, the soil remarkably fertile, and the aspect of the country handsomely diversified with gentle undulations of hill and dale.

Jones and Clayton counties are more northerly than Jefferson, Washington, and Cedar, being about the latitude of Boston and Albany.

Fields in Illinois.

In my descriptions of Illinois, I adverted to the Military Tract and Rock River region, both lying between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, and consequently convenient for the British emigrant to inspect, in case he should land at New Orleans. The Sangamon country lies east of the Illinois river, and is well worthy of examination. Springfield the capital of the state is situated in this region,—it is under a fine state of cultivation, and many English families have settled in the neighbourhood. Society is very excellent, schools and churches abound; Land will undoubtedly be found higher in this neighbourhood, than in Wisconsin or Iowa, in consequence of its having been longer settled and more densely populated. Jacksonville is also in this neighbourhood, being one of the most beautiful towns in the state. The Illinois college, is situated one mile from Jacksonville on a delightful eminence, overlooking a vast extent

of highly cultivated country. This institution is well endowed with professors in the various departments of science, moral and intellectual Philosophy, Chemistry, Languages, Rhetoric, Belle Lettres, &c. &c.

In case the emigrant should desire to visit Mr. Flower's Settlement, at Albion, Shawneetown would be the place of Landing. This may be done by either route (via) New Orleans, or the central route by Pittsburgh and the Ohio river.

Fields in Wisconsin.

The reader will find a more comprehensive description of this interesting region under the head of "Wisconsin." In adverting to the different portions, I should recommend the Emigrant's attention to the counties of Dane, Iowa, and Grant, as presenting many attractions, and a happy combination of those requisites that would render a residence both agreeable and happy. All kind of grains and crops which are raised in the northern latitudes, may be cultivated with great success; and owing to the great range of pasturage on the prairies, these counties offer great facilities for the raising of cattle, hogs, and sheep. The counties of Iowa and Grant abound with lead and copper ore, and are well watered with clear perennial streams and springs. Iowa county will be particularly interesting to the British Emigrant from the circumstance of its being the

choice selected by the "British Temperance Emigration Society," organized at Liverpool in 1842. The first party of Emigrants sailed from Liverpool for their destination in the month of May of this year (1844). The tract of country purchased by the society, is situated on the south side of the Wisconsin river, being about 114 miles west of Milwaukee and about 25 miles north of Mineral Point. The location has been very judiciously made, being in the central portion of the territory, near the seat of government,* a salubrious climate and fertile soil, having direct communication with the Mississippi, by the Wisconsin river, which is navigable by steam-boats, some distance above the Settlement.

Iowa county contains over 1,300 square miles, its prairies are extensive and beautiful, copper and lead are found in great quantities in the neighbourhood of the "Blue Mounds" and Mineral Point. The Wisconsin river forms the northern boundary of this county, it is likewise drained by the headwaters of the Peckatonakee and Fever rivers, whose tributaries meander various portions of the county.

Grant Co. contains between 11 and 1200 square miles; principally rolling prairie land. Lead and copper ore abounds. The Mississippi forms its western, and the Wisconsin river its northern boundary. It is drained by the Blue, Grant and Platte rivers. This county offers great inducements to emigrants, as a great portion of the land is reserved from sale, on account of the lead

* Madison is situated on the Four Lakes,

ore contained in it; the right of pre-emption to which will no doubt be given hereafter to all who now *are*, or hereafter *may* settle upon it. The soil, including mineral land, is extremely productive, and yeilds from 50 to 65 bushels of corn to the acre, 60 to 70 oats, 20 to 35 of wheat, and rye and barley in like proportions, and vegetables not surpassed either for quality or quantity. Pop. 1838, 2,763. Lancaster is the county seat.

Many other portions of Wisconsin, holding out every desirable advantage to the emigrant, might be named with equal justice, among which are Walworth, Racine and Rock counties.

Prospects of Mechanics, Labourers, &c.

With respect to mechanical pursuits and trades, it is obvious, that the older states offer wider scope for a greater variety of occupations than the new ones. But for all persons connected with mechanical pursuits where utility is concerned, there is a certainty of employment, and good wages throughout the western country.

The following may be enumerated as pretty certain of employment at good wages

Stone Cutters wages about 2 dolls. (8s. sterling) per day

Bricklayers, about 3s. sterling in 1843.

Masons, 6s. to 8s. per day

Blacksmiths, (much wanted) 8s to 10s.

„

Carriage-makers and Wheelwrights, do well in the
towns

Cabinet-makers, a good business in the towns

Shoemakers, good in town or country

Tailors, ditto ditto

Hatters, good in the towns

Saddle and Harness-makers, ditto

Bakers, good in the towns

Coopers, a very good trade and materials plenty

Millwrights, good in town and country

Tinners, in towns

Gunsmiths, good in towns

Carpenters and Joiners, good in town or country

Painters, good in towns

Tanners, who understand their business in all its
branches, will succeed

Day Labourers in the towns, 4s. to 6s. sterling

Farm Labourers, 16 to 20 dollars per month and
board

Dairymaids, who understand making cheese and salting
butter for a distant market

The Mechanic should take into consideration how much more valuable money is in a new country, than the old, and how much less his expenses will be. Good board and lodging will be obtained at 2.50 to 3 dollars (*i.e.*) 10s. to 12s. sterling per week. And he should recollect, also, that 5s. sterling, will buy an acre of land in *fee simple*.

Merchants who would be desirous of establishing a large business, could do so to any extent, in any of our flourishing towns upon the Mississippi river, by

receiving the produce of the farmers, (*via*) Beef, Pork, Lard, Butter, Cheese, Wool, Hemp, Tobacco, &c. &c. and shipping to New Orleans, or Coastwise to New York, or Boston, and many articles to Liverpool and London. To give the reader some idea of the amount to which such a business could be extended, I will instance the house of Bridgman & Partridge, in the young town of Burlington, upon the Mississippi, where I reside. This establishment transacted a business of 175,000 dollars in the year 1840: only about seven years after the first settlement of the place. Likewise Milwaukee and Chicago, upon Lake Michigan, afford equal facilities; perhaps greater, from the fact of being more accessible to the eastern market (*i.e.*) New York and Boston. To give the reader some idea of the rising importance of these young cities of the lakes, I quote a short extract from a Milwaukee paper.

“According to the Journal, the exports from Milwaukee since the opening of Navigation, up to first of the present month were 559 tons of lead, 85 of shot, 15 of copper, and 18 of ashes; 14,500 bushels of wheat, 2715 barrels of flour, 403 of pork, 47 of white fish, 21 of lard, 10 of tallow, 57 bales of fur, and 3,000 hides —Paper of 1840

Eight years ago the traveller would have scarcely found a roof to shelter himself, were Milwaukee is now built.

Drapers, Grocers, Ironmongers,

And other tradesmen, who are doing a business in England, upon a capital of from £500 to £1000 sterling—who are struggling to support their families respectably, much more to accumulate, would be likely to succeed well in merchandizing, in either Iowa or Wisconsin. In England, every man follows his own peculiar calling; the merchant of the Western States sells from a silk dress to a tin cup, from a cambric needle to a crow-bar; if the farmer has got no cash, the merchant takes his grain, beef, pork, wool, hemp, wax, hides, loads a “flat boat,” and sends it off to New Orleans; in short, your genuine Western Merchant is frequently a “character,” perchance captain of his own flat boat, sells his own cargo at New Orleans—takes a packet round to New York and Boston—buys 20,000 dollars worth of goods, returns to the west and takes his seat in the legislature, to which he had been elected—does a little at law making—a trifle at president making—puts up pork—preaches occasionally at a camp meeting—manufactures lard oil—takes a mail contract from government—is “Sole Agent” for Brandeth’s pill—sends out cheese to Liverpool—“comes over” to settle accounts—spends a week at Rome, and returns in good time at the breaking-up of the ice of the Mississippi, to load another flat boat for New Orleans. Thus, you perceive, our Western Merchant is a personage who takes time on the wing. Are you disposed to

try it Reader? There is no obstical for a person of ordinary tact and capacity soon to become possessed of the qualifications of a Western Trader.

Average Prices of Articles of Family Consumption

At the Shops of the different Towns of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

	cts.	s.	d.
Refined loaf (or lump) sugar	16 per lb.	0	8
Brown or moist sugar	10 „	0	5
West India and Rio coffee	15 „	0	7½
Molasses (Treacle)	60 per gall.	2	6
Teas—Souchong, Hyson &c.	87½ per lb.	3	6 pr lb.
“ Imperial, Gunpowder, &c.	1 doll. 25 „	6	0 „
Currants, Zantee	15 „	0	8
Raisins, Muscatells	16 „	0	8
Teneriffee Wine	1 doll. 50 per gall.	6	0
Indian Corn Meal	30 per bush.	1	5
Flour	4 dolls. — per barr.	16	0
Bacon—hams	5 per lb.	0	2½
Lard	8 „	0	4
Chickens	1 doll. — per doz.	4	0 pr doz
Ducks	1 doll. 50 „	6	0
Geese	30 „	1	3 each
Turkeys	25 each	1	0 each
Sheep	1 doll. — per head.	4	0
Butter	6 per lb.	0	3
Eggs	6 per doz.	0	3
Potatoes	30 per busl.	1	5
Carolina Rice	8 per lb.	0	4
Mens thick boots (for farming)	3 dolls — per pair	12	0 pr pr.
Ditto thick brogans, or Bluchers	1 doll. 25 ditto	5	0 „
Women's leather shoes	“ 12 ditto	4	6 „
Ditto Morocco or kid (dress) slippers	... „ 50 ditto	6	0 „

Unbleached sheeting and shirting, 18 to 20 cts. per yard, or 9d. English money

Bleached long cloth, 25 to 31 cts per yard, or 1s. 6d.

Printed calicoes for dresses, 15 to 30 cts. per yard, or 1s. 3d. to 7d.

Broad cloths (medium quality) from 3 to 5 dollars per yard, 12 to 20s. English.

Hats, (about the same as in England) 3 to 5 dollars, or 12 to 20s.

Cheap Straw Hats are worn much in Summer, at about $37\frac{1}{2}$ cts. a piece, or 1s. 6d.

Window glass, much cheaper than in England.

Crockery ware higher than in England.

Knives and forks higher than in England.

Boots, shoes and hats, much the same as in England

The reader will perceive, that all articles of consumption in the way of food, are vastly cheaper than in England. Wearing Apparel, Cooking Utensils, &c. higher.

I should recommend the Emigrant to take out a good supply of serviceable clothing, bed and bedding, leaving behind chairs, tables, sideboards, clocks, looking glasses, and all such cumbersome articles. There will be no difficulty in replacing what is necessary at any of the numerous towns either in Illinois, Iowa, or Wisconsin. On more than one occasion some good woman has said, "What shall we do for Tea"? The ladies must remember, that the American ships go to China for Tea, just as the English ships do, and we pay no duty on Sugar, Tea or Coffee.

Average Prices of Cattle, Cows & Sheep
*And the necessary Farming Implements for a
 Beginner.*

Good Milch Cows may be bought for 10 to 15 dollars.

“ Yoke of Oxen (used in preference to horses in
 breaking prairie and ploughing 50 dolls.—£10.

Sheep may be purchased from 87 cts. to 1 doll. per
 head, or 12 sheep for £2.

Farm Waggon, about 50 dollars—£10.

Harrow, (make it and save) 14s.

Scythe, Axe, Pitchfork, Spade, Rake, Shovel, Chains,
 (in the gross) £1 12s.

House, (i.e.) Double Log Cabin* £15

Seed Corn for ten acres; ditto for potatoes, turnips
 and garden seeds (gross) £1.

Poultry, and a young pig, say 3 dollars—12s.

Family expenses until a crop is raised (provided the
 Emigrant commences in early spring, so as to
 plant a small crop) about 6s. sterling per week;
 estimating from 3 to 5 in the family, say 30 week:
 50 dollars—£10.

Eighty acres of prairie land, 1 dollar, 25cts—5s. per
 acre—£20.

A good saddle and cart horse say 50 dollars—£10.

Thus you see for within the sum of £80, you can
 be comfortably situated upon your own land, furnished
 with a house, oxen, horse, cow, farming implements,
 and provisions until you raise a crop.

* Manner of Building.

Can I succeed with £100 in my pocket on arrival.

Is the question that has often been put to the writer, in England. I hesitate not to say, that, the industrious and prudent man can not only succeed, but may lay the foundation of a handsome property; how much more convenient 3 or £400 would be, must be very obvious to any man of sound judgment. By referring to my estimates of stock, &c. necessary for a new beginner, page 61; It will be seen, that for, within the sum of £80 the emigrant can be comfortably settled upon his own eighty acre tract; furnished with a comfortable house, yoke of oxen, horse, cow, twelve sheep, poultry, pigs, &c.; likewise waggon, plough, farming utensils generally, and thirty weeks provisions until a small crop is raised for subsistence. Here then, you are comfortably establish upon your snug little farm in western America. And if you do not happen to have a "Home sick Wife," I can see no reason why, with ordinary Good Luck, blessed with patience and perseverance, you should not prosper equal to your utmost expectations. If you are comfortably established and have £20 left in your pocket, keep it there!—don't let it "oze" away you hardly know how it is very convenient for a settler in a new country, always to have a few pounds by him. It has been generally a capital error with Emigrants, to expend the last dollar for the acres at the onset, and then have several years of "up hill" work, and perhaps, get dis-

couraged before they arrive at the summit. Eighty acres will make a very comfortable farm. If you have £500, purchase 320 acres, a half section ; cultivate it well, load your own flat boats with your own produce, take it to New Orleans, and realize a handsome return, without having it wasted away by the commissions of the Merchant.

What Productions are most Profitable to Cultivate.

With remarks upon Hemp, Wool Growing, Tobacco Lard, &c.

Many people appear to have entertained an idea that we could grow nothing but Indian corn and wheat in the north western States. How often some English friend has remarked “ what signifies your productive country without a market,” let us examine the matter a little ; our country is as happily adapted for the culture of hemp, wool growing, tobacco, hops, the castor bean, the raising of stock as any portion of north America, this will apply equally to Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, (with the exception of tobacco, in the latter territory.) It is by no means, merely the field of Indian corn or wheat, that will constitute the sources of wealth to the western farmer. For instance, wool growing is one of the most profitable enterprizes the Emigrant could enter into, and what branch of rural life can be more agreeable than the superintend-

ing of a thousand head of sheep, with a boundless range before them? The thriftiness of sheep on our prairies is remarked by every observer; and wool growing commends itself to the interest of every farmer in the first place, because of the home market furnished in the west; and in the next, because of the trifling expense of getting wool to the principal market. When wheat would not bring more than 3 or 4 dollars, a hundred weight, wool would be worth probably more than 30 dollars in the markets of New York and Boston.

Another advantage the western wool-grower possesses is the low price of his land. He can the more easily compete with the eastern farmer in wool (because of the small cost of transportation) than almost anything else, and for the present, while his flocks can have the unlimited range of the prairies without expense, there is no doubt but he can deliver his wool in New York, at a cost much less than the eastern farmer. And for many years the greater interest on land at the east will more than cover the cost of transportation.

It would be of importance that the Emigrant judge correctly as to the breeds best adapted to our prairies; that in commencing the wool growing business, those breeds be introduced which will be most profitable. I should recommend to the Emigrant the introduction of the Cotswold and Southdowns as being best adapted to our lands.

Travelling prettily extensively in the north of France and through Belgium, towards the frontiers of

Prussia, in the early part of this season (1844) I could not perceive our flocks upon the prairies would suffer by comparison with those on the Continent, neither in fact with those that I have observed in Britain.

Many of our farmers have already gone extensively into the raising of Sheep, both in Iowa, and Wisconsin, I can now re-call to mind several who have flocks of from 800 to 1000.

Although speaking somewhat at length of the advantages of wool growing, the character of the country is equally adapted to neat cattle of all descriptions, swine, &c. In fact, Hogs are raised with little or no trouble, having almost a boundless range both in forest and prairie, a feeding upon, grass, roots, acorns, and the various nuts of the forests which are very nutritious, very little difficulty is experienced when the time comes for slaughtering, (each owner having his respective marks) he hunts them up from the "range" and feeds them a few weeks with Indian corn, before killing or driving them to market.

The introduction and manufacture of Lard oil, as an article of merchandize, promises to be an important event in the value of swine, independent of the demand when cured into bacon, and packed for Shipping.—See article on Lard &c., Page 67.

I could also, would the limits of this little volume permit, enter into statistical details concerning the culture of hemp, tobacco, the castor bean, and many other articles, which have given the most satisfactory results to those who have engaged in their cultiva-

tion, until recently, Tobacco was considered a staple, exclusively adapted to the southern or cotton growing states, a doubt had existed in the minds of many respecting its successful cultivation, as far north as the central portion of Iowa and the Rock river region Illinois, experiments however in the culture of tobacco have proved it, in both States, a most successful and profitable crop. I think I never beheld finer fields of tobacco, than those upon the rich margins of the Des Moines river, in Iowa territory, the season that I left the country in (1842,) or more promising indications of a favourable soil and genial climate for its growth and excellence. With respect to the success attending the culture of this crop in the "Rock river country," Illinois, I append a short extract, that recently met my eye from the "*Chicago American*":—

"Our readers generally, we presume, are not aware that tobacco is now grown to a considerable extent in Northern Illinois, This, we believe is its second season. The counties of Winnebago and Ogle have the credit of adding Tobacco to the other great staples of the northern portion of the state. Large quantities are raised in and near Bloomington in the former county. Mr. Martin, lately of Alabama, now residing about two miles from Rockford, recently cut a leaf from one of his stalks measuring about three feet in length, by two in breadth. Most of the farmers in the above mentioned counties have engaged in the cultivation of the crop. From two to ten acres is the quantity of land appropriated to its culture by those who raise it. So far it has produced from one thousand five hundred to two thousand five hundred pounds to the acre. The net profits on each acre are calculated at from seventy to one hundred dollars. Much of the Tobacco raised in these counties has been already harvested and is now drying under sheds which have been

erected for that purpose. With regard to our soil, as adapted to its cultivation, it is declared to be as suitable as that of any other portion of the Union. It grows luxuriantly, as may be inferred from the size of the leaf to which we have alluded. Southern men engaged in the cultivation of Tobacco say, that our soil and climate are decidedly favorable to its growth. With regard to its quality, it may be considered good, to say the least. Cigars have already been manufactured from it, and a friend of ours, who is both a lover and judge of the weed, says, they are superior to the common American article. We anticipate with no small degree of pride, the time when we shall add Tobacco to our "Chicago Market." We shall soon expect to see hogshead after hogshead of this product rolling through our streets and on to our vessels. We believe most confidently, that we shall become a great mart for it, as well as grain. The Tobacco of Northern Illinois will one day figure in the eastern prints, as does our wheat at the present time."—*Chicago Amer.*

Surely, my readers, we do not lack for variety of profitable productions, in the New States, even though corn is occasionally at a low price in the market. But I apprehend my Emigrant friends will have no serious cause of alarm, even with a good crop of corn in their fields. It will never be an absolute drug as long as people are liable to get hungry, and are compelled to eat bread to sustain life. When men reiterate "What signifies your productive country without a market? Look at our English markets (they often say) very well. I do not conceive the great and vital question of the Emigrant to be, what he may get for his produce, but how much will remain in his pocket after he has got it.

Suppose the English farmer gets 80s. a quarter for his wheat, let him cast up his rental, poor rates, church

rates, window tax, toll bars, horses, dogs, &c. &c., and see how much heavier his purse is after the steward and tax gatherer have dipt their fingers in, than the western farmer, who knows nothing about these things even by name. This is the point in question, how much remains in the treasury, after accounts are settled? And at last, "one is a tenant at will," possibly holds a lease, and the other a *Freeholder*: I simply remark, that this, like all other subjects has two sides to it. It is not my province, however, to draw conclusions, for my readers, I presume, do not desire it. I only aim to point out a road to a kindred land, and the facts connected therewith.

The Exportation of Lard

As an article of Merchandise—cost of Shipment to Great Britain by different routes. Canada, &c.

The following statement will shew the cost of shipment and transportation from various parts of the interior of the United States, to the different sea-ports of an important leading article.

Lard—	Freight from Cleveland, Ohio to Montreal,	47½
	cts. per hundred weight.	
„	„ from Montreal to Liverpool about	70 cts
	per cwt.	
„	„ from Cincinnati to New Orleans,	75 to
	80 cents per barrel.	
„	„ from New Orleans to New York,	75 cts.
	per barrel.	

Lard, Freight	about the same price to Liverpool.
„	„ from Cleveland to New York, 55 cents
	per cwt.
„	„ from New York to Liverpool, 33 cents
	per cwt.
„	„ from Cleveland to Boston, 60 cents
	per cwt.
„	„ from Boston to Liverpool, 40 cents
	per cwt.

It may be interesting to know, whether the farmer can afford to send the article of Lard to England, and if so what would be his profit.

We will take for instance a fat hog, weighing 300lbs, at Cincinnati, which will furnish two hams, weighing together about 42lbs, leaving 258 lbs of pork. If this be reduced to lard by the most expeditious and profitable mode, viz. by steaming, we may expect about 60 per cent of lard, equal to 154lbs., which at the ordinary price at Liverpool would be worth 13dolls. 68cts.

Deduct keg or barrel	75cts		
Freight to New Orleans	75cts.		
Commissions & Contingencies,		75cts.		
Freight to Liverpool.....	75cts.		3	00
				<hr/>
			10	68

This, with the present duty included, gives 3 dollars 50cts per hundred weight for the hog as dressed, nearly double the actual price in Ohio and the states on the Upper Mississippi river.

Freight per 112lbs. on Lard from	
Cleveland to Montreal.....	50 cts.

Montreal to Liverpool	70 cts.
Colonial Duty on importation into Canada, 15 per cent. ad valorem	90 cts.
Duty on this Colonial produce in England	11 cts.

2 doll. 21 cts.

From Cleveland Ohio to New York by Erie Canal, &c.	55 cts.
New York to Liverpool	33 cts.
Duty at Liverpool	44 cts.

2 doll. 32 cts.

Being 89 cents. in favor of the New York route over that, through Canada.

Few persons have taken the trouble to calculate and are fully aware of the amount of this article, which might be produced and exported from the Western States of America. It would be considered strange were it asserted, that the export of oil, pork and lard were there a demand, might be equal in value to our heaviest staples, even that of cotton: but it is believed that it can be strictly demonstrated, that not only this is true, but that it might reach in value beyond any of these exports

The expense of rearing swine in these parts of the United States where there exists acorns, and wild vegetable roots to an unlimited extent, is very small, and it may be remarked, that for the purpose of making oil, it is immaterial how great the proportion of oleaginous food is given to them.

Beech, oak, hickory, and walnut all furnish excellent food. Indian corn too, may be raised on the prairies at 3 dollars per acre, standing in the field in which the swine can be turned in to feed, making the cost about 3d. sterling per bushel, allowing 50 bushels to the acre; and it is only necessary to consider the fact, that one man can cultivate 40 acres of this kind of soil and produce about 2000 bushels of maize, which is the very best gain for fattening swine.

Advantages of a Prairie County, over a Wooded Country.

The captivating features of a prairie landscape you have heard described under the head of prairies, I shall now proceed to speak of the advantages they present in settlement, over a heavily timbered country.

Mr. Flower, says, "the substantial advantages to a European emigrant, in opening a prairie farm are apparent. The first hard and preparatory labour of clearing the timber is all saved. If he count the saving in money, it amounts to ten or twelve dollars per acre. This single consideration will induce the European to prefer a prairie country to an unbroken wilderness of wood

An Englishman undertaking to open a farm in a heavy-timbered country, even if the land be given to him, little thinks of the labour to which he is doomed. To chop, he never learned in his youth, it is a labour he will never like; a dexterous use of the axe he can seldom if ever acquire.

It is truly disheartening after years of toil, to see the little opening that he has gnawed into the forest. After the best of his life is spent, he possesses a field full of stumps, impeding speed and excluding all excellence in cultivation. His prospect is ever close bounded by the impenetrable foliage of a forest; himself a solitary prisoner in the midst, having no hope of adding one acre to his cultivated field without paying the penalty of unmitigating toil."

To the European emigrant the prairies are particularly adapted. He is skilled in the use of the plough and the spade, and there he finds an ample field for both, without the necessity for labour in its previous preparation.

To the attractive features of our country, do I attribute in a great degree, the improved and intelligent character of our population. The Emigrant now removes to a country *new* to be sure, but more inviting, more beautiful, than the *old* country he has left. How different were the early settlements of Ohio and Kentucky, and yet *they* have settled with a rapidity truly astonishing, although they were wilderness countries, and the early adventurers to those States, were compelled to live for years deprived of social intercourse, and of the advantages of religious and moral instruction. With respect to Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, at the present day, we not only have a country prepared by nature for the plough and the spade of the husbandman, but we have the advantages of steam communication to our very doors, even the most fastidious can

be surrounded by every luxury if so disposed, it is this wonderful change that has gone in advance of the people's opinion concerning new countries. Talk of remoteness, and wilderness, and sacrifices in going to a new country at this day; what is there of real sacrifice that could detract from man's rational happiness—situated in a comfortable home—in some shady nook, on the edge of one of our beautiful prairies?

It has been urged by some that, however our prairies may have added to the beauty of the landscape, they are impediments to the settlements of a country. Ten years ago this objection was urged much more strenuously than at present. For in that length of time many prairies, both in Illinois and Iowa, have been converted into highly cultivated farms. Upon which the "croakers" of early times predicted that no settler would ever venture; and in ten years more that such an objection ever did exist will be a matter of wonder. A little calculation would convince the most sceptical, that it is cheaper in the proportion of 4 to one to haul fencing (rail) timber 2 or 3 miles (which is about the extent that any Iowa or Wisconsin farmer need to go), than to expend 8 or 10 years of toil and labour in clearing the heavily timbered lands of Ohio, Kentucky, and Canada.

Why so many British Emigrants return Home,—Advice, &c.

As I have had occasion frequently to remark, it is not the mere getting to America that is to better one's condition; many persons seem to imagine, that if they can once set their foot upon the soil of the new world, that there will be an end to all their sorrows. But alas! too frequently it is but the beginning of their woes. How often have the newspapers within the last eighteen months, been filled with accounts of hundreds of Emigrants returning disappointed to their native land: this is all very natural, but it argues nothing; yet it is a stumbling block to those who really desire to better their condition; how often have I heard language similar to the following "I did intend to emigrate to America, but Mr. Such-a-one, returned last autumn and he brought back such doleful accounts of the country, that no consideration would now tempt me to leave. And pray, where did Mr. Such-a-one go to, in America? O he went to New York. And how much further did he go? O he would not think of going any further, prospects were so bad, and competition so great He stopped three weeks! could get no employment—spent all his money, and returned. And thus a grand conclusive argument is spread far and wide, of the prospects held out in America. Can we expect men to be benefitted, who rush headlong and blindly to America, without any fixed object, or ultimate aims,

either of occupation or place of abode? And is not the foregoing a correct illustration of hundred of cases? I am willing to venture the assertion, that America possesses all the advantages, and inducements for the industrious, persevering and frugal Emigrant, now that it ever has from the day of its first discovery. But those advantages are not to be found "picked up" on the pavements of every Atlantic city. No, no, my readers, you must go the fertile regions of the Great West," and I would here remark that, that person who merely intends to go over to New York, Philadelphi, or Boston to better his condition, had better stay at home. It is a mistaken notion, if people suppose the hogs run about the streets there, already roasted, with a fork stuck in their backs, crying come "Come, Eat me." Here has been one great cause of failure and disappointment.

There is likewise a class of persons in all the large atlantic cities (more especially New York) called "Runners" a set of Harpies who make a trade of fleecing and robbing emigrants of their money and their time, and I fear they would be none too good to rob him of his luggage if they could get a good opportunity. These are the persons, I wish to guard you against, they are ready to board your ship in the Harbour, and crowd about you as soon as you land at the wharfs, and would feign appear to be the best friend you ever had in the world. These men are worthless vagabonds who get a dollar per head from the agents of "transportation lines" for all they can induce to take their respective lines, they know no-

thing about the western country, and their sole object is their fee and not your welfare, they not only wrong the emigrant, but they injure our own country. So serious has this evil become that in many cities societies are now formed for the "diffusion of information among emigrants" the object being to give (gratuitously) to the emigrant all necessary and proper information about getting to the western country.

Here has been the grand difficulty, and the serious misfortune that intending emigrants have laboured under, the want of detailed and minute information before leaving home. You have had vague and general ideas that America was a great and fertile country, a wonderful country! and so it is. But to profit by removal to such a country you need to be in possession of the thousand little details, that even the books can seldom impart, and how is it on arrival at our American cities? Go ask the moving mass on the pavements of New York, or Baltimore, or Boston, which is the best route to take; or where is the best place to settle? And they can no more tell you than the man in the moon? you might as well enquire of the multitude who throng the Streets of Liverpool or London; Again, how is it with another class of people? I allude, generally, to the Americans, who visit England; one would think surely all Americans ought to be familiar and conversant with their own country. But it is a mistake; such is not the fact my readers, the great majority of Americans visiting England are people from the Atlantic States, men connected with mercantile pursuits who know but little

or nothing about the "Great Valley, of the Mississippi" (*i.e.*) so far as being able to advise the Emigrant where to settle, and contrasting advantages of one section with another.

In view of these things, does it not behove the intending emigrant to act deliberately and investigate thoroughly before embarking? Encountering such circumstances at the onset, is it a wonder that the uninformed, and often destitute emigrant, returns discouraged and disheartened? And should this class of persons be the criterion of the utility of emigration? Yet they too often are. How different is the success of those who have acquainted themselves with different portions of the country before leaving home. Those who have layed down their plans properly, who have a certain state or territory in view, and proceed immediately to the spot.

People appear to loose sight of the fact, that while hundreds have returned, thousands have remained and are doing well. Look at the statistics of emigration, and see the annual amount of population that pours out of Europe, and scatter over the Continent of America. And yet there is room enough and to spare, for all to succeed who are so disposed. To talk about excess of labour, and no employment, in a country presenting such incentives to industry is an absurdity.

A recent English writer commenting upon the new states, makes the following judicious and very correct remark:—

“Labour is the thing most required in the west ; few are able to avail themselves of the richness of the country for the want of labour. There would be thousands of acres of land more in cultivation if labourers could be had. The great drawback to the west is that labourers become proprietors of land in fee simple so quickly, that, instead of labouring for others, they wish to hire others to labour for them. It is no in any particular district that this want is felt, but all over the western states. If emigrants could only muster a sufficiency of means to take them to the west, they need not be under any dread of obtaining plenty of work for themselves and all their family. I never knew a man, who was willing to work, in want of it. The man is blessed indeed who has a large industrious family ; he may consider himself rich when he gets there. I could quote instances in abundance of poor families settling there, who are now in affluent circumstances

It is this lingering about the large seaports and expending their little means, that, in my opinion may be attributed most of the calamities that have attended those who have returned. If they have not sufficient nerve to endure a few months privations, they had better never make the attempt.

I close this chapter with this emphatic admonition : leave the city as soon as possible ; proceed to the spot you have chosen as your future home ; labour diligently in your respective avocation, be it agricultural or mechanical, and success will crown your efforts.

Principal Towns.

The most important towns of Iowa, are Burlington, Du Buque, Iowa City, Fort Madison, Bloomington, Devenport, Koesauque, and Mount pleasant, likewise many more flourishing and rapidly increasing villages, the seats of justice of the different counties.

Burlington, is handsomely situated upon the west bank of the Mississippi river, being 1429 miles above New Orleans, 248 above St. Louis, and 75 below rock Island. The view of Burlington as presented on the opposite shore, or in ascending the Mississippi, is extremely picturesque. The main part of the city is situated within an amphitheatre, formed by the surrounding hills, but is rapidly extending itself over these eminences and sloping declivities; and the neat residences (generally painted white) rising above each other in each succeeding street, form a striking contrast with the forest-crowned hills with which the whole is encompassed. Burlington is a place of much enterprise and commercial activity, and contains a population of about 3000 inhabitants. It is the residence of the governor, secretary, and chief justice of the territory—publishes two weekly newspapers—has two steam ferry-boats—several neat churches,—six hotels, and many tasteful residences, and contains from 50 to 60 mercantile houses; beside various establishments engaged in different mechanical pursuits. From its rapid growth, Burlington has, hitherto held out many inducements to masons, builders, bricklayers, and mechanics generally.

The numerous and extensive views in the vicinity of Burlington, are uncommonly beautiful and invariably arrest the attention of travellers. From the summit of the neighbouring hills, the town spreads out like a map exhibiting a panoramic view of peculiar beauty. The eye traces every street with its waggons, its busy throng and the curling smoke of numerous chimnies—in short the ever-changing scenes of bustle and busy life. The majestic Mississippi, meandering its serpentine course until lost amid its thousand green islands, ever and anon enlivened by the noble steamer, as she proudly glides from point to point; and looking far in the east, the eye surveys the wide prairies of Illinois, covered with its brilliant robes of green, and sprinkled over with numerous and finely cultivated farms; the whole scene embracing a combination of objects rarely to be met with. Although the traveller of 1844 alights from a four-horse coach, at the door of a spacious hotel; yet the writer of these pages in 1834, was glad to find the shelter of a log cabin and a comfortable bed, within the folds of a Buffaloe robe,

HISTORY.

“Burlington, which was formerly known as the “Flint Hills,” and more familiarly by the Indians, as “Shok-ko-kon. It has long been an old trading post for the Indians, and, up to this day, the frequent excavations in the streets, bring to light the mouldering remains of the departed, with the usual appendages of savage burial, the war-club, the pipe and the hatchet,

DUBUQUE.

Is the great depôt of the lead region, being about 176 miles north of Burlington, and 14 miles above Galena. It is pleasantly situated upon the west bank of the Mississippi, directly opposite the dividing line between Wisconsin and Illinois, and is 1,605 miles above New Orleans, 424 from St. Louis, and 324 below the falls of St. Anthony. The principal part of the town is built upon a table area or terrace, which stretches along the river for several miles. The soil, being composed of a sandy loam, the city is always exempt from the unpleasant annoyances of muddy streets, an enviable desideratum which the citizens enjoy over many other places of the west. From the bluffs which bound the western side of the town, the prospect is surpassingly beautiful. The eye of the traveller traces the city, almost beneath his feet, stretched out on the broad plateau of green, the compact portion presenting its parallel streets, with the uniform ranges of houses and lofty stores, the cathedral with its accompanying buildings, and the numerous neat and tasteful residences that are sprinkled over the outskirts of the town, presenting a panorama of extreme beauty.

Du Buque contains at the present time, a population of about 2500 inhabitants: it is a place of important trade, situated in the centre of the mining region. The surveyor general's office for Wisconsin and Iowa is established here, also the land-office for the northern

district of Iowa, four or five churches, among which is the Catholic cathedral, a neat structure of stone; the "Miner's Bank of Dubuque," a brick edifice; several spacious brick warehouses, numerous hotels, a printing office, from which is issued a weekly newspaper: lyceum, reading-room, several primary schools, an extensive steam saw-mill, twenty-five to thirty wholesale and retail mercantile establishments, many of the merchants being extensively engaged in mining and smelting, several grocery, provision, and boat stores, hardware, tin, crockery, and glass establishments, cabinet-makers, blacksmiths, bakers, and in short, all the usual branches of artisans, mechanics, &c., that are found in the towns of the east.

To the Emigrant desirous of settling in the mineral regions, the Turkey River, Country, Clayton, or Delaware Counties, Dubuque, would be the point of debarkation. Boats will always be found at St. Louis, bound for Galena and Dubuque; fare usually about 30s. sterling, meals included.

HISTORY.

This portion of the country was formerly inhabited by the "Renard," or Fox Indians. About the year 1786, Julien Du Buque, a French Canadian, came among them, and succeeded in obtaining permission to work the mines which they had previously discovered. At a council, held at Prairie Du Chien, 1788, the Indians formerly confirmed to him, (whom they called "La Petite Nuit," or the "Little Night,") permission in writing to work the mines. Du Buque's purchase, embraced an extent of Seven Leagues, fronting on the

Mississippi, and containing upwards of 140,000 acres, embracing the most valuable mineral region of (then) Louisiana.

In 1796, the Indian title to these lands was confirmed by Baron de Carondelet, then governor of Louisiana, in which they were designated as the "Mines of Spain."

Julien Du Buque died on the 24th of March, 1810, aged forty-five years: a stone monument, with a Spanish inscription, still marks the spot of his resting-place on the high bluff, a mile or two below the city which bears his name. It is indeed a romantic spot, in fit unison with them that sleep in death, upon the summit of a precipitous bluff, crowned with deep foliage, overshadowing the tranquil bosom of the majestic river. The curious traveller is well repaid for his pilgrimage to the now consecrated spot.

Davenport

Occupies a beautiful location on the Mississippi, about mid way between Burlington, and Du Buque. It is the seat of justice for Scott County, is about 350 miles above St. Louis, and 80 from Burlington, it is situated nearly opposite Rock Island, on a handsome elevation, with a beautiful range of sloping hills in its rear. Davenport has many neat and tasteful residences, also a large and commodious hotel, recently erected of brick, at a cost of about 30,000 dollars, three stories high, ornamented with a portico in front, surmounted by a balustrade, and observatory. The view from the observatory embraces

a prospect extensive and beautiful. Here the eye of the observer can encompass at one view the towns of Davenport, Stevenson, and Rockingham stretched out on a broad plain before him, through which the glittering waters of the Mississippi is pursuing its serpentine course: the beautiful residences of Le Clair and Davenport; and rising up in bold relief, as if from her watery bed, the gray cliffs of Rock Island, on which is situated Fort Armstrong, its dilapidated battlements looking like ruins,

“Whose hollow turrets woo the whistling breeze.”

The location of Davenport is a healthy one. Its position, near the foot of the rapids, will cause it to become a place of commercial importance. Water-power, building stone, and bituminous coal are convenient, and a sufficiency of timber will be found upon the bluffs and neighbouring streams.

Fort Madison, Iowa City, and Bloomington, are places of rising importance, and present a good field of enterprize for the industrious artizan, or tradesman. Iowa City, is indeed a wonder in the growth of towns; in 1839 it was the hunting ground of the “Red Man” and beyond the pale of Civilization. It now contains an enterprising population of from 2 to 3000 inhabitants, has many spacious and well filled shops, various mechanical establishments, several spacious hotels, three brick churches, the legislative hall, a fine edifice of stone, one hundred and twenty feet in length. In short Iowa City, presents all the bustle, activity and refinement of a city of years. Perhaps the sceptical reader will be inclined to doubt; the writer way an

eye witness, to the change he has described. On the first of May, 1839, he saw the scite of this young city, covered with the tall grass of the prairie, without the first impress of civilization, not even the foundation of a 'log cabin.' In the last of May, 1840, (a period of about 13 months.) the writer again visited the same spot. A town had sprung up containing 700 inhabitants, and more than two hundred buildings.

“Who hath heard such a thing”?

“Shall a nation be born in a day”?

The situation of Iowa City, and surrounding landscape, will remind the European Tourist, much of St. Omir, in France.

Moral and Social Character of the People.

Erroneous impressions prevail, not only in Europe, but in the older States of America, concerning the character of our population. The character of our people is no longer that of an outlawed semi-barbarian race, once, and even now occasionally, applied to us in terms of reproach. Many people appear to imagine that we are a hord of bandits who do nothing but fight, and gouge and steal. And this is by no means exclusively a European opinion. Those who have been accustomed to associate the name of “squatter,” with all that is reckless and brutal, would be astonished could they suddenly be transported to the fireside of the Western Settler. For intelligence and correct moral deportment, I unhesitatingly assert, that the settlers, as a body in the States and Territories of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, are not surpassed by any equal number of people of any country in the world. There is a decision of character—a penetrating discernment,—an unostentatious bearing in the character of the western man, that the untravelled of the old states and of Europe no nothing of. I believe I speak understandingly upon this subject, I have journeyed through the rural districts, among the peasantry of England; I have been a guest in the humble peasant's cottage, both in Belgium and France, and I have time without number, been the inmate of the remotest set-

tlers cabins on the prairies of America, yet, I never looked in vain for the old file newspapers, or a few stray volumes in the latter; I do not wish to enter into a laboured panegyric, respecting the frontier people of America. I merely wish to remove a popular error, and undeceive those who sincerely wish to come at the truth. And surely, it must be more satisfactory to the English Emigrant who contemplates emigration; to be impressed with the idea, that he is going to live among a virtuous, intelligent and order loving people; than that his lot is to be cast among cut-throats and outlaws. To the European, it is natural that he should, to some extent entertain these erroneous opinions. But the inhabitants of the older portions of America, are ignorant without excuse.

If the inhabitants of the Old States would exercise a little discernment, they would perceive at once that the causes no longer exist for a frontier people to continue a rude ferocious race.

The first settlements of the Ohio valley were attended by circumstances, widely different from those of the present day in Iowa and Wisconsin; when those early pioneers were compelled to transport the comforts of life and support, across the Allegany Mountains on pack-horses. The Emigrant found it necessary to change his former habits of life, families were not only without the advantages of school education and religious instruction, but were often deprived of the benefits of social intercourse. Hence they contracted habits of living and deportment peculiar to themselves. But as those causes no longer exist, so also has the effect ceased. The great facilities now afforded to emigration, as well as to commercial intercourse have been as productive of, as obvious changes in the character of our population, as in any of the effects which has produced upon society.

The people of the new States, are essentially, a religious people, and deeply alive to the importance of education; schools as well churches will be found in every little hamlet throughout the country; and in many different neighbourhoods remote from the towns; the district school house is appropriated for a chapel on the sabbath.

Mr. Flower in his "Error's of Emigrants" speaking of the character of the Western Population, makes the following remarks, and remember; reader; this is English authority, the result of twenty years experience and observation:—

"Affability, kindness, and good temper are prevailing characteristics of the Americans in every part of the union. The rough back woodman, that is a man with a hand rough from labour, clad in coarse garments suited to his work, and perchance carrying a rough beard of some days' growth, possesses these estimable qualities of a civilized people in as high a degree as a citizen or wealthy farmer or planter of the Eastern States.

"Consideration and kindness for the helplessness of infancy and the bereavement of widowhood is one of the most pleasing traits in the American character, individually and nationally. The destitute child is not taken into the family as a little inferior, a dependent to be despised and neglected, but it is treated as one of the family; its general condition, feeling, and education, are all cared for, it attains to maturity respectable and respected."

"Another circumstance on which I have often dwelt with pleasure is the comfortable independence to which poor widows attain, I mean those who are literally left poor and destitute. There appears to be several occupations that affords them a comfortable living. It is common to see the little cake and beer shops by the road side, kept by widows. The little trade appears to be all sufficient for the acquirement of comfortable clothing and house comforts. The respectful and kind treatment accorded to females by every class of Americans surrounds these little lone establishments with respectability and safety.

Captain Barclay, says, in his agricultural tour,

"I had long heard much of the impertinent curiosity, rudeness, vulgarity, and selfishness of the people of the States, but instead of any extraordinary signs of these repulsive qualities, I found good breeding, politeness, frank hospitality, and every generous feeling prevailing amongst them, in as great a degree and with as few exceptions as at home."

"In the cities I saw none of the open displays of depravity, which disfigure our large towns, and in all my journeyings I never saw the face of a policeman, never met a beggar or any one in the garb of mendicity."

"It cannot perhaps be said, that in Britain, there is any deficiency of chivalrous bearing towards the fair sex; but I remarked of America that this sort of feeling passes through all ranks more obviously than I had met with at home. Every man here, rich or poor, seems on all occasions sedulously to give place and precedence to females, and the meanest of them are exempt, or I might rather say debared, from those masculine or laborious tasks which are commonly enough assigned the sex, or assumed by them, in our country"

Although Captain Barclay's, tour, did not extend to the extreme frontier, yet his remarks are equally applicable to the states and territories of which these pages treat.

Mr. Cobbet speaks thus : upon the manners, of the Americans.

“ It is supposed, in England, that this equality of estimation must beget a general coarseness and rudeness of behaviour. Never was there a greater mistake. No man likes to be treated with disrespect ; and, when he finds that he can obtain respect only by treating others with respect, he will use that only means. When he finds that neither haughtiness nor wealth will bring him a civil word, he becomes civil himself ; and, I repeat it again and again, this is a country of universal civility.

Wisconsin.

Among the various fields to which the attention of the British Emigrant has been recently directed, but few, present a greater combination of advantages than Wisconsin ; this interesting territory embraces all that portion of country lying north of the state of Illinois ; east of the Mississippi river, and a line drawn due north from its source to the boundary between the United States and the British possessions ; and west of the Montreal and Menomonee rivers, and Lake Michigan.

Wisconsin and Iowa, were formerly embraced in one territory, such was the increase of population, that in 1838, they were divided by the line of the Mississippi ; both have now a sufficient population to become separate states. The geographical situation of Wisconsin, in a commercial point of view, is very advantageous ; with the great Mississippi flowing along her western border, the broad lake on the east, her extensive pineries* on the north, the stores of minerals in the centre, and the fine agricultural and grazing lands, in the central and southern portions, must render Wisconsin among the most desirable countries for settlement to be found in the Mississippi valley ; add to these requisites, general, salubrity of climate, such, as in my opinion may be safely recommended to the English Emigrant.

* Pineries when ever mentioned denotes Pine forests.

Face of the country, &c.—The surveyed part, south of Green Bay, Fox and Wisconsin rivers, is composed of timber, and prairie lands, many portions beautifully diversified with groves and copse, while other parts are inclined to be somewhat wet and swampy. The soil is the same rich alluvial mould described in other portions of this work, and will average from one to six feet in depth.

All descriptions of crops, grains and vegetables which are raised in the middle and northern States or Great Britain, may be cultivated with success; and, owing to the great range for pasturage on the prairies, it is admirably adapted to become a great stock-raising country. The counties of Grant and Iowa abound with the richest mines of lead and copper ore. This region is well watered with clear perennial streams and springs. North of the Wisconsin commences a hilly country, and thence northward gradually swelling into a mountainous region, the surface becomes rugged and broken, the streams rushing down falls and rapids, forming in many places, wild and picturesque views. Near the sources of the Mississippi is an elevated table land, abounding with lakes, filled with wild rice and fish,

CHIEF TOWNS.

The chief towns of Wisconsin are Milwaukee, Mineral Point, Madison, the Prairie Du Chien, Green Bay, Racine, Southport, Casville, Plattville and many other thriving towns, the seats of justice of the various counties.

Milwaukee is the largest and most commercial town in the territory, it has had a most rapid and vigorous growth, being in 1834 a wilderness, it now contains a population of some 4 or 5000 inhabitants, many extensive mercantile establishments, several neat churches, and spacious hotels, numerous extensive and well filled shops, supplied with every article that necessity, comfort, or even elegance could suggest. Probably quite as much so, as most of the provincial or market towns of England. Milwaukee being situated on the shores of Lake Michigan has direct and constant communication through the great lakes, both by steam-boat,

ships, schooners, &c.; with Detroit, Cleavland and Buffalo, thence by the Erie Canal with New York and Albany. It is a place of great enterprize and commercial spirit, and has already become one of the most important ports upon the Lakes. Milwaukee is the usual point of debarkation for the English Emigrant, whose destination is Wisconsin (via) the northern or lake route.

Mineral Point is situated in the midst of the extensive lead and copper regions, and is the seat of justice for the county of Iowa. The mining operations in this town and vicinity, are carried on to a great extent. In order to give the reader some idea of the recourses of this part of the territory, I append a short extract from a recent Wisconsin paper :

“ We learn from the *Mineral Point Free Press* that an active business is now going on in that section of the territory in the working of the copper mines. The copper mines of Wisconsin are probably more extensive than any other in North America. The *Free Press* says, the mines commence south of *Mineral Point*, and extend northward to Lake Superior. Many years will yet elapse before the vast recourses of this regions shall be fully developed. There are now three furnaces for smelting copper, in the vicinity of *Mineral Point*. About 55,000 pounds of copper produced at these furnaces, have recently been sold in New York City, at 17 cents per pound, cash. The quantity of ore now on hand ready for smelting, it is estimated will yield 150000 more.

Madison, the political capital of the territory is situated upon the borders of the “ Four Lakes,” near the centre of Dane County; it is rapidly improving and settling by an enterprising and intelligent population; is one of the most healthy town scites in the western country.

Prairie Du Chien is one of the old French villages, situated upon the eastern shore of the Mississippi, about 90 miles north of Du Buque. It reminds me forcibly of the straggling street, without the gates of Calais, towards St. Perrie’s Bridge; here may be seen the light hearted Frenchman, smoking his pipe before his cottage door—voyager’s with their immense ‘rafts’ from the extensive pineries of the Chippewa and Black Rivers, Trapper’s from the rocky mountains, and “ half eastes’ with their little pacing ponies ever ready to dance, as often as the village musician is willing to pipe.

Fort Crawford, a United States Military Station, is situated in the vicinity of the town, the officers of the garrison, with their families, together with some of the principal people of the place, forms a delightful and refined circle of society. It is to the tourist, rather than the Emigrant, that *Prairie Du Chien* offer many attractions.

Racine and Southport are both situated upon the borders of Lake Michigan, between Milwaukee and Chicago, and from their advantageous position, will be places of importance. Rochester is a small village, situated in the western part of Racine county, near the borders of Walworth. It is an interesting neighbourhood, and has been the choice of many English Emigrants.

Green Bay, is likewise one of the old towns and is situated at the south-western extremity of the bay of the same name; it will not command the attention of the Emigrant, so much as the points in the more central portions of the territory.

The *Portage Canal* to connect the navigable waters of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, (a distance of only one mile and a quarter) thus forming a steam-boat navigation between New Orleans and Buffalo, will, when completed, render Green Bay, a place of great trade and vast commercial importance.

* The "Liverpool Temperance Emigration Society," have also layed off the town of Gorstville, at their settlement on the Wisconsin river, also a second is in contemplation called the city of Heyworth.

General Instructions for the Vovage.

Choice of Ship Provisions, &c.

The resolution to settle in a distant land, in the hope of improving ones condition, having been fully determined on, too very important enquiries are naturally suggested to the emigrants mind; 1st, as to how he is, in the best and cheapest way, to reach the country were he intends to fix his abode; and 2nd, upon arri-

val, as to the most expeditious and economical mode of proceeding to his ultimate destination ; with a view of giving the emigrant all possible information upon these important topics, and I shall devote the few remaining pages of this little volume :—

“In taking passage for the voyage, the principal things to consider are quality of the vessel, its conveniences, punctuality and charge. These differ very considerably in most of the passage ships. but for speed and safety, convenience and dependence on the time of sailing, the London and the Liverpool line of packets are much superior, and the advantages they possess in so high a degree, and the additional expense of a passage by them is so trifling, as to secure a preference over all other modes of conveyance. If, therefore, the intending emigrant journeying to the United States, be at any reasonable distance from these ports, and can avail himself of any of the cheap steamboat or railroad conveyances to these places, there should be no hesitation in deciding upon these vessels in preference to any others.”

From Scotland, probably Glasgow, and Greenock, would be the most favourable ports to embark from ; and in Ireland, from Belfast, Cork, and Limerick. there are frequently a number of good staunch ships, well calculated to take emigrants, of course the Liverpool and London, “line ships,” have the decided preference over all others ; first because the accommodations are greatly superior, the commanders are gentlemen of great nautical experience, the officers are civil, they invariably have excellent crews, and what is of very great consequence, they sail on the day appointed, whereas the transient ships, which convey passengers for a trifle less, not unfrequently delay their time for a week or fortnight after the time specified. If, however, emigrants should be obliged to take a passage in a transient ship, let them take particular care to have the day appointed for sailing specified in the receipt. This precaution will enable them, in the event of time of departure not being observed, to demand and enforce payment for their board and lodging for as many days as may elapse between the day appointed for sailing and that on which the vessel may afterwards put to sea. In case the demand for your expences should, be refused, a complaint made to the agents employed

by Government will be the means of procuring you speedy redress, and should you be too much crowded in the steerage, the same officer will regulate that for you.*

Provisions.

It will be useless to particularize every article of provisions with which the passenger should be furnished; yet there are some things which it may be useful to suggest, that would contribute materially to the Emigrants comforts and perhaps his health, which are too frequently omitted and forgotten, both by the voyager, and "ship store" supplier. Water and Bread are always furnished by the ship; Flour, Oatmeal, Rice, and Potatoes are generally found by the ship; (one pound weight in all per day,) I shall now enumerate a few articles that may or may not be taken; according to the means or inclination of the emigrant. Dried beef or mutton, bacon, ham or tongues, herrings or dried fish; the writer has often found a bit of dried fish at sea, an excellent relish, an article he seldom thought of on shore, cheese, salted butter, Eggs, onions, vinegar and pickles.

' Acids of all descriptions are not only highly serviceable at sea, but particularly grateful to the palate. Of vinegar, therefore, as the most common, there should be an ample store; pickles likewise of various descriptions; but, above all, lemons or the juice of them. For this kind of acid there can be no proper substitute: it counteracts the effects of salt diet, allays sea-sickness, and forms occasionally a very refreshing and invigorating beverage.'

Tea, coffee or cocoa, sugar, treacle, currants, raisins pepper, salt, mustard, ginger, soap, a few candles, Blacking and brushes, seana, epsom salts, and castor oil, (the ship) however has generally a good supply of medicine,) a chest or hamper for provisions, and cord to lash the luggage with. Tin water can, to hold three quarts each adult per day; boiler and frying pan, kettle, and tea or coffee, metal pot, porringer, plate and dish, knife and fork and spoon.

*Lieutenant Henry, R. N. is the agent appointed by Government in Liverpool, for emigrants to apply to for advice in quest of a passage, or for redress in cases of imposition office, No. 20, Rigby Street,

Be no way extravagant with regard to clothing, during the voyage, which is far too common an occurrence with many persons. Almost anything will do to wear on Ship-board, and the emigrant should remember that he is going where most every article of his wearing apparel will be additionally valuable.

The average passage money (in the sterage) from Liverpool to New York, may be estimated at about £3 to New Orleans, it will probably range from 20 to 30 shillings higher

In conformity with a late Act of Parliament, the ship is bound to have on board, bread or bread stuffs to the extent of 70 pounds weight in all, for each adult passenger, (seven pounds per week each, to be dealt out twice a week,) the charge for this is ten shillings each adult additional. The passengers have to provide themselves with all other needful provisions. Hospital money (levied in America,) which formerly charged in addition to the passage money, is now included in the passage money.

The ship provides berths to sleep in 3 feet 6 inches wide for two persons, and others, 6 feet 4 inches wide, (adapted for families with young children,) also two cooking grates for fire. Three quarts per day of pure water, passengers have to find their own bedding, and such small cooking and eating utensils as they may require.

No extra charges is made for personal luggage. Wearing apparel and personal implements of trade are free from duty here and in America.

Among several houses of known reputation in Liverpool, who are frequently despatching first class American ships. I should recommend the emigrants attention to C. Grimshaw, and Co., 10, Goree Piazzas. The recently established house of Harnden, and Co., 20, Water Street, and likewise to Fitzhugh, Walker and Co., 12, Goree Piazzas. Either of the above establishments are well known to the public, and it is only necessary for the distant emigrant, to apply to them by letter, and he will promptly receive all the necessary information.

Southern Route, (via) New Orleans.

With useful Suggestions.

If the emigrants intend settling in Iowa, Southern Illinois, or Missouri:—

“I would advise them to go by the way of New Orleans: the expense is much less, and there are fewer difficulties to contend with than in any other route. On their arrival in New Orleans, they can leave their families on board the ship, until they have made choice of a steamboat to convey them up the Mississippi; this can be accomplished in a few hours. The distance from the ship landing to the steamboat landing is little more than a mile. By going by the way of New Orleans, they will be better able to take more heavy luggage. No charge will be made by the ship or steamboat for luggage. Families leaving this country ought to start not later than the latter part of March. If they cannot get off by that time, they had better wait until the beginning of September, before they leave England. Should there have been a sickly season, the epidemic will entirely have disappeared before the vessel can arrive there. It may be asked by some, why cannot we sail from here in May, June, or July? Because it is probable that the Mississippi river may be too low for the larger class of steamboats to navigate it. When the river gets low, smaller boats then ply,—their charges are much higher, and there is much loss of comfort; also, it is not prudent for emigrants to be in those southern latitudes during the hot months. Should the emigrants have to choose the fall season, owing to not being able to accomplish their transit before, and be rather short of cash, they are sure, if they wish it, to obtain plenty of employment for themselves and their families in New Orleans, with better wages than are given in the upper country. But I advise them to leave early in the spring, and to ascend the river, so as to be in time either to make a crop for themselves, or to assist others in making theirs; and also to avoid the summer in New Orleans.

“The probable expense of a passage to New Orleans, for a man, his wife, and four children, water included, I think would be about £10. The rule with the New York packet line is, to reckon two children as equal to one adult. The price from New Orleans to St. Louis, on the Mississippi, for the same number of persons, will be under £3, luggage included. Should the Emigrant find it necessary to exercise a rigid economy, he can assist the crew to “wood”* in ascending the Mississippi, and in this way pay his passage to St. Louis.

St. Louis is about eleven hundred and eighty miles above New Orleans. They generally charge the same price for any of the intermediate ports on the Mississippi, that are above the mouth of the Ohio, and below St. Louis.

In arranging for your passage, be sure that you take a boat that is going as far, or beyond your place of des-

*The Steam-boats on the Western Waters burn wood instead of coals, and stops, perhaps twice in 24 hours to purchase of the Setters on the river banks.

tion. Should you be careless about this, it might be attended with serious trouble and dis-appointment. The New Orleans route will also present an advantage to the agriculturalist who may be desirous of taking out a little blooded stock—Durham Cows,—Cotswold and Southdown Sheep, which would pay well. The Emigrant must not expect so great a variety of picturesque scenery, in going by New Orleans, as he would by New York, or Philadelphia. But with men who emigrate to better their conditions—there are many considerations paramount to “sight seeing.” On arriving at St. Louis, the Emigrant will find numerous steam-boats to convey him up the Illinois river, to Peoria or Ottowa. The Upper Mississippi to Burlington, Devanport, Du Buque, Galena, or wheresoever his destination may be.

On Arrival, Routes, &c.

Should the Emigrant arrive in New York, and his destination be Wisconsin, he will probably take the northern or ‘Lake Route, proceeding to Albany by steam-boat 160 miles; fare generally 4s to 6s. (English). from thence by canal to Buffalo, distance 360 miles passing through Utica, Rochester, Lockport, and many other interesting places. At Buffalo the emigrant will exchange the canal boat, for a Steam Boat, Brig or Schooner, (according to his means,) in which he crosses the lakes. Should the vessel in which he has taken passage be delayed for a day or two, the emigrant should avail himself of the opportunity to visit the “Falls of Niagara” distant about twenty miles. A railway train leaves Buffalo, several times a day for the “falls” passage about 1s. 6d. A day could not be spent more agreeably, leaving Buffalo, you proceed through the chain of Lakes Erie, St Clair, Huron and Michigan, touching at the most important points on the way, viz., Erie, Cleveland, Detroit, &c. If Wisconsin, be your destination, you will land either at Milwaukee or Racine. Should Northern Illinois be your point, you proceed on to Chicago, which is the termination of the voyage. Should the emigrants destination be Southern Illinois, Iowa, or Missouri. 1

should recommend the "central" or Ohio river route, (via) Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, taking a steam-boat at Pittsburgh for St. Louis, distance about 1192 miles; passage £2 or 10 dolls. first cabin, meals included, undoubtedly one of the cheapest and most agreeable routes in the country. The boats touch at all the most important points on the river (*i.e.*) Wheeling, Cincinnati, Louisville, Evansville, Shawneetown* &c. The difference of expence will vary but little between the Central and Northern Routes. Emigrants were sent through last year, by the northern route, from New York, and Boston, to Chicago, for 13 dollars, (*i.e.*) £2 14 shillings, distance 1700 miles. Emigrants will find no difficulty in supplying themselves with provisions, at the different villages along the line of the canal, also at the various ports upon the lakes and rivers, at which the boats invariably stop to receive and discharge freight. On arriving at one of our river towns in the interior (assuming you came by steam-boat) and desire to look about for an eligible location. I should recommend the purchase of a cheap saddle horse, or a canadian pony, which you will be able to obtain for about £7, and proceed directly to the interior, travel leisurely (if you can afford the time) rather than hurry over the country, the settlers will generally be found obliging and communicative, and will frequently make sacrifices to facilitate the stranger. If you find yourself approaching a comfortable looking farm house, about sunset, make a halt, It is not worth while to travel five or seven miles after dark, to reach the "next point of timber" in order to save time especially if you are not familiar with groping about in a prairie country, after night fall. Settlers will generally be found intelligent and communicative ready to impart any information concerning the advantages of their neighbourhoods or of the surrounding country, of the prospects of obtaining lands. &c. I have known a settler to leave his home, and be absent a week, out of pure good will. in order to assist a stran-

* Shawnetown would be the point for the English Emigrant to stop at, who is desirous of visiting Flower and Birbecks settlement at Albion.

ger in making a good selection of Government land.

Although the cabins of our settlers may appear rather rude to the *uninitiated*, yet, hospitality and good cheer are generally within. In short, I know not when or where I have experienced more real comfort, than after a long day's journey over a wide prairie, to find myself at night, comfortably seated before the bright blazing fire of a well fixed western farmer, and while discussing the topics of the day with "mine host," the good woman is not unmindful of the wants of her guest. Broiled prairie chickens, (grouse) ham or eggs, fresh wheat biscuit, and good hot coffee, are no despiseable comforts to the hungry traveller. You may laugh at it reader ! Nevertheless, such are the frequent, yet, unpretending scenes of hospitality often to be met with, in travelling over the prairies of Iowa, and Wisconsin. I speak of what I have experienced a hundred times over, even in the most remote settlements. Should the Emigrant land at Burlington, or Fort Madison, in Iowa ; he will find good roads in the interior to Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Fairfield, Jefferson County, likewise to Iowa City, Linn, and Cedar Counties. The streams will be found generally bridged were they are not fordable. There are no toll bars on the roads. In crossing the streams were a ferry is established, the charge is generally about 6d. sterling. but those are not frequently to be met with. In case the Emigrants attention is directed to the Mineral Region, Du Buque or Galena would be the points to stop at ; from Galena there is communication by coach to Mineral Point, and from thence the distance to the English settlement on the Wisconsin river, is about 24 miles. Du Buque will be the point of landing for Clayton and Delaware Counties, (Iowa) and likewise the Turkey river country, which presents many advantages to the Emigrant. To the Wisconsin Emigrant who contemplates a settlement in either the Counties of Racine, Walworth, Rock, Dane, or the adjacent counties Milwaukee would be the point of debarkation. The Emigrant need make no scruple in Iowa, Wisconsin or

* " British Temperance Emigration Society."

Illinois in stopping wherever night may overtake him ; most of the farm houses expect to entertain the stranger travelling through the country, their charges being generally what they consider sufficient to pay them for their trouble.

NOTICE,

The recently Established House of Harnden, and Co., in consequence of their high reputation and extensive connection in the United States, will offer great advantages in facilitating the Emigrants journey in the interior. To those Emigrants who contemplate embarking from Liverpool to New Orleans. I would recommend the Establishment, of R. Hedlock, 36, Chapel Street, Liverpool, where all requisite information will be obtained by Letter, or otherwise. Likewise to those desirous of being well supplied with "ship stores," to Mr. Dyke, 84, Pitt Street, who has been long in the business, and whose reputation is deservedly well established.

CONCLUSION.

The writer had prepared much valuable matter concerning the mineral productions, likewise an article concerning the cultivation of sugar, from the Indian corn stock (maize) and several other subjects of importance ; but it will be very obvious to the reader that every thing cannot be condensed within the circumscribed limits of a little pamphlet of this description. While I have endeavoured to point out some of the advantages of my own country to a kindred people. I trust these pages will be found free from a spirit of invidious comparison. I do not forget while delineating the magnificent features of my country, that the enterprize and genius that is developing its mighty resources is an emanation from this great people. I prefer to look for the good in men, and in nations, rather than the evil. I would that this feeling was more generally cherished. That the bonds of mutual friendship, and good will is the true policy of England and America, towards each other, I believe is the sentiment of every well constructed mind in both countries.

ERATA.

In the title page instead of "Author of Sketches of the United States of America and Iowa, &c"; read "*Author of Sketches of Iowa, &c.*"

Also in Mr. Catlin's, Letter, instead of "requisition," read "*acquisition.*"

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